

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Mr. Hammett (Telephone at Westside High School: 260-5230 Ext 80220)
(E-mail: Michaelhammett@Anderson5.net)**

Course Description: Greetings and welcome to American Government and Economics! This course is a one-unit course divided into two parts. The first nine weeks is a brief overview of the founding, establishing, and functioning of the government of the United States of America. The second nine weeks is a short analysis of basic economic theories and the major economic systems of the world.

Prerequisites: None. American Government and Economics is a required class for a South Carolina high school diploma.

Credits: One half (1/2) unit of credit for American Government & one half (1/2) unit of credit for Economics.

Course Outline – American Government:

1. Principles of American Government (7 days)
2. The Legislative Branch (7 days)
3. The Executive Branch (7 days)
4. The Judicial Branch (7 days)
5. The Political Parties and Mass Media (10 days)
6. Participating in State and Local Government (7 days)

Course Outline – Economics:

1. Thinking Like an Economist (6 days)
2. Understanding Markets (10 days)
3. Business and Labor (4 days)
4. Money, Banking and Finance (5 days)
5. Economic Performance (4 days)
6. Government and the Economy (8 days)
7. Global Economy (7 days)

Grading Policy: Students will receive a separate final grade for both Government and Economics. There will be one nine week grading period for Government, and one nine week grading period for Economics. Each nine weeks grade will be determined by the following percentages:

Major Grades.....60% of semester grade (Projects, Tests)
Minor Grades.....20% of semester grade (Quizzes, Classwork, Homework)
Daily Grades.....10% of semester grade
Nine Weeks Test.....10% of semester grade

Example: Major grade average – 92.....92 X .60 = 54.0
Minor grade average – 88.....88 X .20 = 17.6
Daily Grades - 90.....90 X .10 = 9.0
Nine Weeks Test – 84.....84 X .10 = 8.4

89 Nine Weeks grade

Tests - tests will be given after each unit.

Make-up Tests: Students will have 5 class days to make up a missed test due to an excused absence on the test day.

Students may exempt nine weeks exams if they meet the following criteria:

- Grade of A in the course and no more than 4 absences
- Grade of B in the course and no more than 2 absences

Materials Needed: Please bring your fully charged Chromebook to class everyday.

1 three-ring notebook (2 inch) with notebook paper

Ink Pens – BLACK or BLUE INK ONLY / Pencils (#2 only)

Emergency Procedures: In the event that it becomes necessary to evacuate the classroom due to an emergency or drill, quietly (so that you can hear instructions) collect your valuables, form a single file line, and quickly exit the room to the **RIGHT**. Exit through the doors in the front lobby and proceed **TO THE FENCE NEXT TO THE PRACTICE FIELD. STAY TOGETHER AS A CLASS.** As you reenter the building, go directly to the classroom as quickly as possible.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Tardy Procedures

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings. If you are not in the room when the bell rings, you are tardy.

2. Absence Procedures

Because Government and Economics are 45 day courses, students cannot miss more than 3 days and receive credit for the course. Students must attend 85 of the 90 days for a semester course, and 170 out of 180 days for a full year course. I will accept late work from students with authorized absences. Missed tests or exams must be made up within five days of your return to school. After this time period, a zero will be recorded.

3. Homework Procedures

When necessary, homework will be assigned to practice objectives taught in class or to prepare you for class. Quizzes will be given periodically to ensure students are completing the required reading. Please have your work with you in class each day!

4. Conference Procedures

I encourage parents to contact me if there are any questions or concerns. Please call the school (260-5160) and leave a message. I will return the call as soon as possible. I am available for conferences immediately after school.

(E-mail: Michaelhammett@Anderson5.net)

5. Classroom Rules

- A. Students are expected to show respect for the teacher, fellow students, and school property.
- B. Students are expected to be in their desks when the bell rings & have the proper materials.
- C. Students are not to use Cell Phones in class.
- D. No gum, food or drinks.
- E. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
- F. Students are to model appropriate behavior and dress.

6. Consequences (Steps taken for minor offenses)

- A. Student will be warned.
- B. Student will serve 15 minutes detention after school.
- C. Telephone call home.
- D. A parent conference will be scheduled.
- E. A referral to the office. (For serious disruptions this will be immediate.)