



## AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (K313) .5 credit

### Syllabus/Academic & Discipline Plan

*The mission of Juneau-Douglas High School is to develop a healthy community of learners and to prepare our culturally diverse student population for global citizenship.*

<b>Instructor</b>	Gary Lehnhart	<b>E-mail</b>	gary.lehnhart@juneauschools.org
<b>Office Hours</b>	Open during enrichment, lunch, and after school.	<b>Phone</b>	523-1543

#### Course Description:

This course is a study of the American political system and the structure and operation of local, state, and national governments. Both theory and practice of government are studied. There will be some opportunities for “hands-on” experiences with local, state and federal government. Please note: Enrollment in a semester-long class is a commitment for the entire school year. Requests for changes must include a conference with the parent, student, and teacher.

#### Text(s):

None

Please note: Many textbooks are issued through the JDHS Library's textbook management system. If a textbook is checked out through the JDHS Library, it must be returned in the same condition at the end of the course or unit of study. Failure to return a book or damage to a book may result in a monetary fine based on the value of the textbook and restricted access to PowerSchool.

#### Materials to Bring to Class:

Notebook and pen or pencil.

#### Proper Heading for Papers:

Name, Period, Date

#### Course Syllabus:

Introduction to Government - Island Simulation:

Students will learn about the role of the government by designing their own governmental and economic systems in a group setting. Following this will be an investigation into political and economic systems as well as a comprehensive exam.

Executive Branch - Crisis Simulation:

Students will learn about the role of the executive decision-making process by creating their own crisis as part of a class-wide simulation.

Judicial Branch - Supreme Court Simulation:

Students, through written briefs and oral arguments, will learn about the Constitution and the role of the Supreme Court in determining the legal direction of the United States.

Legislative Branch - Model Congress

Students will create bills for participation in a legislative simulation, which teaches about the legislative and political process.

**Goals/Objectives:**

1. Give students a knowledge of the American political and economic systems (local, state and federal).
2. Students will take part in simulations that will expose them to the functioning of the three branches of government.
3. To prepare students to enter life after graduation as participating citizens in their chosen communities.

**Curriculum / Standards:**

This course will be taught to district standards and district curriculum. The Juneau School District curricular information may be reviewed using the Juneau School District web site under the *Departments – Instructional Services* menu item: <http://www.juneauschools.org>. The NEW Alaska State Standards can be found on the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development website: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/>.

**Grading:**

Grading will follow the policy adopted by the Juneau School District Board of Education (Board Policy # 5420R). As per board policy, semester grades represent the cumulative progress of students.

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 0% - 60%

“INC” = Incomplete

There is no extra credit.

**Late/Make-up Work Policy and Procedures:**

Late work is accepted, but penalized by degree. When the work is presentation-based, half credit will be given. This will be announced beforehand when appropriate.

**Behavioral Expectations:**

Show respect for self and others by being a “serious” student.

Please note: Students are expected to adhere to JDHS policies, as outlined in the Student Handbook, at all times. Classroom policies may include more specific requirements, but they cannot be relaxed beyond the minimums as set forth in the Student Handbook.

**Consequences of Misbehavior:**

Case-by-case basis.

Please note: Any action that endangers others, seriously interferes with the learning process, or is significantly disrespectful to staff or students may result in immediate removal from the classroom and/or direct referral to an administrator, thus by-passing above consequences.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY— (From the JDHS Student Handbook):**

Academic dishonesty or “cheating” does not allow for any type of true analysis and is not tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to

1. Procuring, possessing, using, or distributing tests, quizzes, answer keys, teacher manuals, teacher textbooks and similar materials;
2. Any attempt to tamper with or alter a teacher's record or grades;
3. Representing the work of others as one’s own work, whether the materials are plagiarized from another student, a published work or some other source, such as an Internet site.
4. Making use of notes or other memory aids during testing, except for those notes a teacher specifically authorizes for student use during a particular test or quiz, and;
5. Obtaining or offering unauthorized information regarding tests or assignments.

The *academic penalty* for all parties involved in cheating is a zero or failing grade for any copied or plagiarized assignment, exam, or quiz. Students will not be allowed to make-up the work. Also, the *disciplinary penalty* for cheating may include an office referral for disciplinary action. Possession and/or unauthorized distribution of testing materials or altering a teacher's records call for severe disciplinary consequences. **Repeat offenses could result in loss of credit for an entire course.**

**Electronic Devices:**

Cell phones, iPods, CD players, and other electronic devices are to be turned off and out of sight during class unless the teacher has given specific permission for their use. If an item is confiscated for violation of class rules, it may be retrieved from the teacher on the first offense. For subsequent offenses, the item will be turned over to an administrator for retrieval.

**Please keep the information above. Return the signature form below.**

I have read and understand the Academic/Discipline Plan for the class of .

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*At JDHS we are PROUD to be Crimson Bears - Personalized, Resilient, Optimistic, Unified, Diverse.*