



**Course Outline**  
**Mr. Koshy**  
**American Government**  
**2020-2021**

Curriculum Units:

A. Fall Semester:

Unit 1 Foundations of American Government  
Principles/Concepts of Government  
Origins/Historical Foundation  
United States Constitution  
Federalism

Unit 2: People and Government  
Political parties  
Voters/Voting  
Electoral Process  
Mass Media  
Public Opinion  
Interest Groups

Unit 3 Legislative Branch  
Structure of Government  
Power of Congress  
Legislative Process

B. Spring Semester:

Unit 4 Executive Branch  
Office of the Presidency  
Presidential Powers/Process  
Executive Branch Structure  
Federal Bureaucracy  
Federal Budget/Economics  
Foreign Policy/National Defense

Unit 5 Judicial Branch  
Federal Court System  
Civil Liberties: First Amendment Freedoms  
Civil Liberties: Individual Rights  
Civil Rights: Equal Justice

Unit 6 Comparative Government and Economic  
Systems  
Comparative Political Systems  
Comparative Economic Systems  
Global Issues/Policies

Unit 7 State and Local Government

Unit 8 Personal Finance

**Required Materials:**

1. Pencil and Pen
2. Standard Notebook paper
3. Textbook
4. Colored Pencils
5. Spiral Notebook
6. Three Ring Binder
  - The binder should be divided as follows
  - A. Notes
  - B. Homework/In-class assignments
  - C. Tests and Quizzes
  - D. Handouts
  - E. Projects
6. Flash Drive (Optional)

**Methods:**

- A. Lecture/Discussion**
- B. Lessons on teams and edgenuity during @home learning days
- C. Supplemental Readings: Selected Readings, Text Excerpts, and Newspaper, Magazine, and Internet Articles.
- D. Videos
- E. Projects: Research, Creative, Individual, Group**
- F. Guest Speakers?
- G. Computer Experiences
- H. Maps

**Evaluation:**

- A. Tests, Quizzes
  - Textbooks quizzes will be open notebook if you are present the day the quiz is given, **all make-ups will not be open notebook**
- B. Written Assignments (Reports, Essays)
- C. Notebook(s)
- D. Projects
- E. Class Presentations
- F. Class Participation
- G. In Class Assignments - Make-up for in class assignments may be different than the original assignment.
- H. Homework - Detention will be given for not turning in homework.
- I. Extra Credit?

**Office Hours:**

7:20 am to 7:45 am  
2:35 pm to 3:00 pm  
And by appointment

**Grading Scale:**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

**Your final grade will be determined by a weighted score. Scores will be weighted as follows:**

**Process – 40%**

**Product – 40%**

**Final Exam – 20%**

Remember that your effort in this class directly affects your grade. You need a great attitude coupled with hard work and a lot of mutual respect, **Be Persistent.**

**Dear Parents: Please note that grades will be updated on Infinite Campus. I will also have all of the assignments (in the form of unit agendas) posted on my website (<https://sites.google.com/site/mrkoshysgovernment>) before we begin each unit. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. Please add a contact e-mail to your Infinite Campus page as I will send out e-mail's to parents regarding the class.**