*UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS*

***ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020***

# MR. ALLEY

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

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*It is proper to take alarm at the first experiment on our liberties*

*-James Madison*

*If a nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be*

*-Thomas Jefferson*

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, open only to seniors, seeks to familiarize students with the concepts on which our government and economic systems are built. Emphasis will be placed on the constitutional underpinning for American Government, the current political spectrum, political parties and interest groups, the three branches of our national government, and civil rights and civil liberties. Current events are used to reinforce understanding about the formation of public policy. Basic principles of Economics and Personal Finance are covered in the second semester.

# TEXTBOOK

Remy, Richard C. and Congressional Quarterly. *United States Government: Democracy in Action* ISBN# 0078799821

# REQUIREMENTS

Homework will mostly consist of nightly reading; it must be completed in advance of the material covered in class. By reading each day’ s assignment before coming to class, the presentation and discussion for that day will mean more to you, and you will find it easier to take notes. You are expected to have a comprehensive understanding of all topics treated in the text and the classroom. Examinations will test for understanding of both the readings and classroom discussions. Class discussions are intended to embellish the readings, not repeat the material.

Readings, activities, and discussions are all means of carrying on an inquiry into the topic at hand and are meant to supplement rather than duplicate each other (although some repetition and reinforcement is intended and desirable). The use of electronic devices is strictly prohibited in the classroom without the expressed permission of the teacher.

Class participation is mandatory!

# EVALUATION

Your grade will be based on the following:

# TESTS AND QUIZZES:

Tests will be given following each Unit in the text, see the assignment page of my Government Web Site for specific dates. The tests will consist of a variety of different types of questions such as multiple-choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay. You will also be given a quiz every Friday on the material covered during the week including class notes, readings from the textbook, current events, and 20th century history.

# ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading assignments in the textbook and from various other sources will be made almost every night. See the assignment part of my Government Web Site for specific dates. In addition to the readings, you will have the following assignments**.**

## < THE INTERNET

I will post information about the course, including assignments, due dates and many other resources, on Google Classroom, which you will join on the first day of class.

## < CURRENT EVENTS

You will be responsible for staying informed about Current Events. Sources and specific assignments may be found on the Google Classroom.

## < RESEARCH PAPER

TBA

## < OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Various essays, simulations, debates, The Current Events Game See the Google Classroom for specific dates and details.

## < PARTICIPATION

The quantity and quality of class participation will be considered in determining final quarter and semester grades. Regular attendance is required to do well in

this class. Obviously, you can’t participate if you aren’t there.

# LATE WORK POLICY:

Three days are allowed for the submission of late work, but there will be a deduction of one letter grade per day. If you miss a quiz or a test because you are absent from class, you must take the test or quiz as soon as possible. If you do not take it within three days of your last absence, you will suffer one letter grade penalty per day until you take it.

# CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES:

You must come prepared to learn; personal accountability is crucial.  **This means that you must bring all necessary materials and that you do the prerequisite reading.  No materials may be on your desk other than those related to this class, and all work must be your own and consistent with the Honor Code.**  This includes Personal Electronic Devices.  These devices should not be visible during class unless you are using them for the class.  During tests and quizzes these devices will be collected and put out of your reach for the duration of the test or quiz.  This is your classroom, help create an atmosphere of ownership, positive interdependence, honor and trust.  Mutual respect, for property and opinion, is paramount.