

Honors American Government

Course Overview and Syllabus



Teacher: Mr. Frank Fenn

Impact Cafe' Days: Monday & Wednesday, 8am to 4pm

Virtual Office Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4pm - 6pm, or by appointment

Live Lessons: Offered bi-weekly at Impact Cafe. Watch your email for details on upcoming sessions.

Contact Info: Please contact me using email or phone/text as the primary sources, during normal school business hours, 8am - 4pm. After hours I may respond at my convenience.

- Email: ffenn@henry.k12.ga.us
- Phone/Text/Voicemail: (678) 369-1089

Course Description

This semester-long course provides students with a practical understanding of the principles and procedures of government. The course includes a review of the Constitution and its amendments, the development and extension of civil rights and liberties, and influential Supreme Court decisions. Students will sort through the function of government today and the role of citizens in the civic process, and examine public policy and the roles of citizens and organizations in promoting policy. Throughout the course, students examine primary and secondary sources, including political cartoons, essays, and judicial opinions. Students also sharpen their writing skills in shorter tasks and assignments, and practice outlining and drafting skills by writing a full informative essay.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Investigate the founding principles that guided the establishment of the US government.
- Analyze the civil rights and liberties that are granted to US citizens, and understand the influence of constitutional amendments and Supreme Court decisions that have developed these rights.
- Understand the structures and procedures of local, state, and federal governments.
- Discover how you can participate in government by voting, running for office, meeting civic obligations, and petitioning your representatives.
- Read complex texts at grade level.
- Increase academic and domain-specific vocabulary.
- Engage in routine writing in response to texts, concepts, and scenarios.
- Use research skills to access, interpret, and apply information from sources you have gathered.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Honors American Government students with Impact Academy are also required to:

1. Attend all Live Lesson sessions given by Mr. Fenn
2. Submit the embedded student-produced assignments and essays in a timely manner.
3. Participate in Life 101, and complete the Honors project. See Mr. Fenn for more info regarding this project.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Quiz	20%
Test	30%
Exam	20%
Essay	10%
Assignment	10%
Additional	0%
Project	10%

To facilitate mastery, the passing threshold for all quizzes and tests is 70%. If you score lower than 70%, there will NOT be a second attempt given unless you contact me by phone, webinar or in person at Café to review what you missed and complete some re-teaching. You may also complete an alternate assignment to replace the grade for the quiz or test.

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. There is also a detailed Scope and Sequence document located on my website.