

WELCOME TO U.S. GOVERNMENT!

Ms. Deutsch (Room D303)

Class Information:

Government is a semester course in which you will be learning how the U.S. government functions and how you as someone living here contribute to and influence governmental decisions.

- ❖ Have you ever wondered whether you identify more closely with the Democrats or the Republicans?
- ❖ Would you like to know exactly how a President is elected?
- ❖ Have you wondered why we have certain laws, like the law that requires you to be in school today?
- ❖ Have you considered what rights you have as a person living in the United States?
- ❖ Have you ever been curious about how the court system works and why people go to jail?
- ❖ Now that you're 18, would you like to know how you can vote?

We will be perusing the answers to these questions and more over the next 5 months. The study of government involves awareness of current events and contemporary issues that our government addresses each day. If you trust me, you will see that this class applies to your everyday life. Take advantage of that!

Textbook: MaGruder's American Government, Prentice Hall

Class Supplies and Materials: (*Due by Wednesday, September 3rd for a QUIZ GRADE)

- ❖ Check out the "northbrookhigh" Instagram page for a picture of our class supplies

1. 1 folder with brads to hold your papers OR a 3-ring binder
2. Notebook paper or spiral
3. Pencils or pens (any color except for red)
4. The following based on the first letter of your LAST name:
 - ❖ A-H → a pkg. of notebook paper
 - ❖ I-P → a box of Kleenex
 - ❖ Q-Z → a pkg. of pencils or pens and a glue stick

Classroom Expectations:

1. Respect (each other, your school, your family, and the faculty)
2. Cooperate and Participate (let's make this a fun and engaging semester!)
3. Be present and on time every day (both physically and mentally)
4. Choose appropriate words to express yourself (no profanity)

I do not expect discipline issues. Y'all are seniors and soon-to-be adults. Behave like the mature people that I know you are. However, there will be consequences for not following classroom expectations. You get 3 strikes, and after that point I will proceed with other actions, starting with conferencing with you and then your parents.

Class Goals: My expectation from you is that you will leave this class having become a better scholar, writer, citizen, and learner than you were when you first walked in. I also expect you to graduate in May ☺ Keep in mind that you **MUST** pass this class to graduate. You can do it!

Grading Procedures:

Your grade will be based on a percentage of points earned from the various types of assignments below. I will do my best to keep your grades as up-to-date as possible, and it is YOUR responsibility to come to me if you need help or want to know how to bring your grade up. I will keep current grades posted on progress reports on the wall next to the cabinet at the back of our classroom. Don't forget your goal is to graduate this year, and **this class is required for graduation!**

Daily Grades/Assignments/Current Events Homework

- ❖ 20% of grade average

Quizzes

- ❖ 30% of grade average

Tests/Papers/Major Projects

- ❖ 50% of grade average

Grades are based on a percentage in the following increments:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 76-79

D: 70-74

F: 69 and below

Tests:

I will do my best to announce tentative test dates at the beginning of a unit. There is also a calendar posted at the front with upcoming due dates as soon as I set them. Please be aware of when assignments are due. According to SBISD policy, every student is allowed to re-take tests. However, please be aware that the re-take will be in a different format than the original and will likely be significantly more difficult. Students should consider this option as a last resort only.

Late Work

Senior Social Studies teachers are adopting a new late work policy this year. Any daily work, quizzes, or assignments for a unit are due by the day you take the test for the unit. If that work is not turned in by test-day, then the 0 will remain in the gradebook. I will post the date of the unit test at the beginning of a unit so that you can plan accordingly.

Make-up Work:

I understand that sometimes you are sick or have to miss class for whatever reason. However, if you are absent, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to get any assignments you have missed from the folders/silver box by the door and to turn them in the NEXT school day. If your assignment is late, you will lose points. **No late work will receive full credit.** If you have any questions about what was assigned, please don't hesitate to ask me!

If you miss a test/major assignment, you will have **ONE WEEK** to come in before or after school or during lunch to make up your work. **After one week, your grade will be a 0.** It is your responsibility to come to me to schedule a time to make up your test. Work is due at the very beginning of class (BEFORE the tardy bell rings) in the basket designated for your class.

Homework: I will assign homework when I believe it is purposeful and meaningful to your learning. I will have the due date written on the assignment and on the board. One thing you can expect every week is that we will have current events homework due every Friday at the beginning of class.

****There will be opportunities for extra credit at various points throughout the semester. I will let you know when these opportunities are available.**

Participation:

Students should focus on their time management skills this semester. Part of your class participation consists of your responsibility to turn in assignments. All work due for the week will be discussed in class. If you are having difficulty completing an assignment, please come speak with me as soon as possible.

Sleeping, putting your head on the desk, or turning around talking to your neighbor during classroom discussions will lead to disciplinary consequences. You miss out on everything we are discussing, including things you will be tested over, and it's just plain rude. You are also hindering someone else's learning by causing distractions.

Acceptable Use of Technology and Digital Citizenship:

As part of our class, you will be participating in an online community designed to help develop communication skills and will explore producing content for a larger audience. You will be creating content (written, visual and verbal) and sharing it on the web using tools such as websites, blogs, and/or social networks. The expectation is that you will follow the SBISD Student Acceptable Use Guidelines for Technology Resources. Any student found violating such terms will not be allowed usage of ANY technology until cleared by me. Please understand that no warnings will be given.

Please email/call me anytime you have questions. I'm here for you, and I am on your team. I am looking forward to working with you this year!

Sincerely,

Miss Deutsch

chelsea.deutsch@springbranchisd.com

713-251-3068

Social Studies

Northbrook High School

Instagram: @missdeutschsclass

Twitter: @msdeutschsclass

Tutorial Times: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 3:30-5 (or by appointment)

U.S. Government

Northbrook High School

Miss Deutsch, D303

Chelsea.deutsch@springbranchisd.com

713-251-3068

Attention Parents and Guardians:

Please feel free to email me (the quickest way to receive a reply) at the address listed at the top of this paper. Also, please list your email on the line provided, if applicable. Thank you for your interest in your child's success.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone Number(s): _____

U.S. Government Syllabus Summary

- ❖ Welcome! ☺
- ❖ This is a ONE semester class, and it is REQUIRED for graduation
- ❖ The grade percentages are as follows:
 - 20 % Daily Grades/Current Events Homework/Assignments
 - 30% Quizzes
 - 50% Tests/Major Projects (2 or 3 per 6 weeks)
- ❖ Late Work Policy
 - All assignments for a particular unit are due by the day of the unit test. If you have not made up that grade by test day, it will remain a 0 for the report card.
 - Any test or major project can only be turned in late for ONE WEEK after the original due date. After that, your grade will be a 0.
- ❖ **Every Friday**, you will be bringing a current event to class. We will do a variety of assignments with these current events for the first part of class on Friday. Be prepared to bring something each week because 0s for missed current events assignments cannot be replaced.
- ❖ We will be using LiveBinder as a reference tool for this class. There will be more information to come about how to access these resources.
- ❖ Cellphone Policy→ Based on new Northbrook High School guidelines, I am not allowed to let you charge your cellphone in class.



- ❖ DON'T FORGET! QUIZ GRADE!

- Syllabus signature sheet AND supplies→**Due Wednesday, September 3rd**

I am looking forward to this semester, and I hope you are too. Please let me know if you ever have any questions or need anything. I am here for you!

Work phone: 713-251-3068

Chelsea.deutsch@springbranchisd.com

Class Instagram: @missdeutschsclass

Class Twitter: @msdeutschsclass