U.S./AZ Government

Paradise Honors High School

Teacher: Steve Pratt

Principal: Jessica Alessio

**Syllabus 2017-2018**

**Instructor: Mr. Steve Pratt**

**Office Hours: 2:30-3:30pm**

**Contact Information:** **spratt@paradiseschools.org** **or (623)455-7400 x7471**

**Website: http://sprattphhs.weebly.com**

**Introduction:** The purpose of this syllabus is to provide both the students and parents with information about the U.S./AZ Government class here at the Paradise Honors High School. It will introduce you to the guidelines that are necessary to give the students the most beneficial Social Studies experience. If you should have any questions about the contents of this syllabus, please feel free to contact me at any time.

**Course Objectives:** The U.S./AZ Government class will focus on teaching students about different forms of government, the 3 branches of government and their functions, history of American Democracy, political parties and voting process. Reading, writing and class discussions will be utilized in order to enhance critical thinking skills.

 **Course Description:**

**231M**

**Government Honors ◊**★**1 Credit**

**Grade 10**

***Prerequisite- Earn a B or better in prior social studies course and teacher recommendation***

This course presents a comprehensive study of national, state, and local government. Throughout the year students will become well-versed in topics including law, economics, financial literacy, and current events. Students will gain exposure to a variety of strategies in order to read and analyze complex primary and secondary source text and to increase oral expression, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. Students will be expected to closely read and analyze several seminal documents in American history, important Supreme Court cases, laws and statutes, graphs and charts, as well as news articles and political cartoons. This course requires the completion of at least one independent research investigation regarding historical or current topics in government. Students in this course must demonstrate a commitment to academic achievement, while exemplifying self-motivation and a desire to learn independently. There will also be a focus on critical thinking skills that are necessary for college and career readiness, such as rich analysis, evaluation, and problem solving. This course will also devote time for in depth analysis of the Constitution. All writing assignments will be in-depth and assessed based on the Arizona State Standards (AZSS). Students will complete the course as informed citizens capable of influencing their futures and will likely pursue future Honors-level course work in secondary social studies.

**Anchor Standards:** Here are the key standards and skills for United States government:

* **Concept 1: Foundations of Government**
	+ PO1: Examine the foundations of democratic representative government
	+ PO4: Examine the fundamental principles found in the Declaration of Independence
* **Concept 2: Structure of Government**
	+ PO1: Analyze why the weak central government and limited powers of the Articles of Confederation demonstrated a need for the Constitution.
	+ PO2: Analyze the creation of the Constitution
	+ PO3: Examine the United States federal system of government
	+ PO5: Analyze the structure, power and roles of the legislative branch of the US government
	+ PO6: Analyze the structure, power, and roles of the executive branch of the US government
	+ PO7: Analyze the structure, powers, and roles of the judicial branch of the US government
	+ PO8: Analyze the structure, power, and organization of Arizona’s government as expressed in the AZ Constitution.
* **Concept 3: Functions of Government**
	+ PO2: Examine how the Constitution guarantees due process of the law through Constitutional mandates and Amendments.
	+ PO3: Examine various sources of government funding.
	+ PO4: Describe the regulatory functions of government pertaining to consumer protection, environment, health, labor, transportation, and communication.
* **Concept 4: Rights, Responsibilities, and Roles of Citizenship**
	+ PO1: Analyze basic individual rights of citizenship so that I know my rights and responsibilities.
	+ PO2: Define citizenship according to the 14th Amendment
	+ PO3: Examine the basic political and social responsibilities of citizenship.
	+ PO5: Describe the role and influence of political parties, interest groups, and the mass media.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Folder/notebook (any kind that will hold handouts and notebook paper for notes)
2. Pen or Pencil
3. Positive Attitude!

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. Students will be in their seats with a pen/pencil and notebook by the beginning of class or they will be considered tardy. Any other materials will be placed under their desk/chair.
2. Students will raise their hand to be recognized before speaking.
3. **No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the room. Dispose of these things before class.**
4. The students will be given 5 minutes at the beginning of class to answer bell work question on board. This will be used as a review and preparation for the day’s lesson.
5. Make sure that all restroom and office visits are taken care of **BEFORE** class starts, as there will only be passes given for emergency purposes only.
6. The use of electronic devices must be turned off and stored in student’s backpacks throughout the entire school day. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AS PER STUDENT HANDOOK GUIDLINES.
7. The brushing of hair, applying of makeup, hair spray, cologne or perfume is prohibited in the classroom.

**Grading Policy:** It is important to understand that the grading policy of this class is intended to measure achievement and progress.

**1. Semester Exam 15%**

**2. Class work/Homework 25%**

**3. Tests/Quizzes/Essays/Projects 60%**

**Makeup and Late Work:**

Late work will be accepted for **excused** absences. Students will be given as many days to complete required missing work as days unattended.  Students are responsible to communicate the need for the missing assignments. ***Being swept is not an absence!****If you have been swept, the assignment is still due at the end of the day.*Students with unexcused late work will be subject to the academic detention policy. Please refer to the late policy and academic detention procedures in the student handbook.

**PARENTAL REVIEW CONFIRMATION**

U.S./AZ Government

Mr. Pratt

Paradise Honors High School

I have read the U.S./AZ Government Course Syllabus (and reviewed with student) and understand all of the rules, expectations and standards set forth in the above syllabus. I also agree to adhere to all of the rules of behavior and conduct as set forth in the above syllabus. Please write legibly and return by the second day of class. Thank you in advance.

Student Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

 Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attempts at communication will be made via home telephone call unless otherwise specified. Out of respect for student privacy, I will not leave a voice mail message on any home phone. If I cannot reach you during the regular school hours, I will contact you through email or cell phone.

Best Way to Contact You (Circle One): Home Telephone E-Mail Cell Other

Any additional information about the student you would like me to know: