

# U.S. Government and Politics

Tom Rodefeld

Room 22

Contact Information

Phone: 651-621-6919

Email: [thomas.rodefeld@moundsvIEWSchools.org](mailto:thomas.rodefeld@moundsvIEWSchools.org)

Website: <http://rodefeldatirondale.weebly.com/>

## Course Description:

This course will examine what it means to be a citizen in the United States as well as the theories and origins behind our government. We will examine the various structures of government and ways in which to influence the political system. Major topics include citizenship and participation, philosophical basis of our government, the three branches of government and introduction to civil liberties.

## Learner Outcomes:

[Link to MN Citizenship and Government Standards](#)

## Required Materials:

- *TEXTBOOK*
- Notebook or Loose leaf paper
- Folder or 3 ring binder
- Writing utensils
- Highlighter
- Note cards (if you prefer flashcards to other study methods)

**Classroom Policies:** *we are working to create a safe and comfortable environment where students can actively learn and interact.*

There are several expectations I have of students in my classroom. Treating each other and me with respect is the most important; I believe that simply trying to be a decent human being is the only expectation we truly need to get along. However, there are a few specifics that will help us get there: you should be in the classroom when the bell rings. We will work until the bell every day; do not leave when the bell rings, rather, wait until you are dismissed. **Active** participation in class discussions is also expected, and to some degree, your class grade will reflect your level of participation.

Electronic devices are not to be used during class. Absolutely no electronic devices will be allowed on test days until all tests are completed and turned in. Educational research has shown [again](#) and [again](#) that multitasking decreases student learning. Since we'll be using chromebooks in class, you need to make mature decisions about chromebook use in class. To avoid distractions to your learning, phones should be stowed away during class, unless special circumstances arise, and the teacher is made aware.

All other school policies not listed here will be followed as well.

**Electronic Communication:** Email and electronic communication will be utilized frequently in this course. The best way to contact me during and outside of school hours is through email. In order to receive a prompt response from me, please ensure that your communication is formal, and includes the following components:

- A greeting: Hi; Hello, Ms. McLean; Dear teacher; etc.
- An actual message: don't make demands, don't ask questions that you know the answer to, or know how to find the answer to.
- A signature: proper etiquette dictates that both a greeting and a signature should be included. Please make sure you sign your own name at the conclusion of your message.

**Make-up and Late Work:** It's inevitable that you'll miss class for one reason or another: when this happens, missed work due to an excused absence may be made up. Please see me the next day *before or after class* to determine what was missed and when those assignments should be turned in. Late work will not be accepted after the unit in which it was assigned is completed. Tests should be made up within one week of your return to school. Make-up tests will only be given outside of class time.

**Food and Drink:** Water and other covered drinks are acceptable. Please finish your breakfast before entering the classroom. Any messes made by students will be cleaned up by students.

**Passes** You will need a PLANNER to leave the room. You cannot leave the classroom without it. The teacher and student will both work to make sure appropriate time to leave. Passes are very limited- come to class prepared, and ready to learn!

### **Assignments**

Assignment due dates are scheduled in order to best prepare student for upcoming assessments. Failure to adhere to these deadlines will be detrimental to student learning and achievement. All work is expected to be turned in on the assigned due date unless prior written arrangement has been made with the instructor. Repeated offenses will result in contact to parent/guardian/dean and possible academic tutoring.

### **Attendance:**

"Absences will not arbitrarily result in reduction in grades, but failure to complete work will affect grades. Students and/or parent or guardian are responsible for requesting make-up work for each day's absence" (Irondale Student Handbook 15).

### **Tardies:**

"Each teacher will maintain a record of student tardiness to class. School discipline will be assigned. Any unexcused tardiness which results in a student missing more than 15 minutes of the period will be reported by the teacher to the attendance office as an unexcused absence" (Irondale Student Handbook 15).

### **Academic Honesty:**

Mounds View School Board Policy EG-3109 Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Academic honesty is required to ensure an accurate measurement of a student's academic knowledge. The Mounds View School Board expects that students will achieve success with integrity. Academic dishonesty impairs a true showing of academic achievement. Substantiated reports of academic dishonesty will result in appropriate consequences as defined in accompanying regulations and in student handbooks. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: theft and use of tests; use of crib sheets or other cheating devices on an exam; plagiarism or representation of a substantial piece of work as one's own without proper attribution. This policy applies to all manner, including the most current technological advances, systems, or equipment, that may be utilized for the purposes of academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty will be considered a behavioral infraction. The following guidelines will be utilized when a violation of academic honesty occurs:

- Consequences will be commensurate with the severity of the incident
- Consequences cannot prevent growth and development or an accurate measurement of student achievement
- Measures will be sought to determine why the academic dishonesty occurred
- Students will be required to provide a written explanation of behavior
- Students in violation of this policy will not escape the performance indicator; student knowledge will still be measured within an agreed timeframe set by teacher, dean, and student
- Additional consequences may include:
  - Re-examination of content; repeat of project, paper, or activity
  - Possible reduced score/grade not to prevent achieving a level of proficiency
  - Other measures identified in Mounds View School Board Policy EG-3109: Student Rights and Responsibilities
  - Multiple offenses may result in loss of credit, to be determined by building principal

(Irondale Student Handbook, 8).

### **Grading Scale:**

A: 3.6-4.0	B-: 2.4-2.58	D+: 1.41-1.59
A-: 3.2-3.59	C+: 2.21-2.39	D: 1.0-1.4
B+: 3.01-3.19	C: 1.79-2.2	D-: .80-.99
B: 2.59-3.0	C-: 1.6-1.78	F: .79 and below

### **Gradebook Setup:**

Points are earned through a variety of activities including; Daily assignments, quizzes, discussions/debates, essays, exams, and projects. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Summative Assessments	50%
Formative/Practice/Class assignments	15%
Civic Engagement Project	10%
Friday Forum	10%
Final Exam (Citizenship test/final)	15%

### **Accessing Grades:**

Parents can access grades through [ParentVUE](#). Parents will be able to see assignments for each class, and the assignments may have a score or a code (or both).

**Mi** = Missing (the assignment is missing and is currently counting as a score of zero)

**Ab** = Absent (the student was absent when the assignment was given or due)

**La** = Late (the assignment was turned in late)

**Inc** = Incomplete (the turned in assignment was not complete)

**TI** = Turned in (the assignment is turned in but does not yet have a score)

**WIP** = Work in progress (the student is working on the assignment and although it is not completed, it is not missing--this is often used for projects that have multiple parts)

Assignments may include written comments from the teacher.

### **Re-learning Opportunities:**

Students who score below 70% on writing assessments will have additional opportunities to meet proficiency. Students who score below 70% on unit exams will have the opportunity to complete relearning to improve their grade to proficiency (70%). This relearning will take place primarily during Knight Time but will also be available before or after school by appointment with the teacher.

Relearning for unit exams will be two parts. One component will be focused on the most challenging test questions (identifying and explaining the correct answer). The second component will build upon vocabulary and application to demonstrate mastery of content through mapping, pictorial representations, multiple choice questions, and narrative writing.

- If you are below 70%, you will receive enough points to bump up to 70/100

Unit 1 Test 50 / 100

Unit 1 Test corrections 20/0

- If you are above 70%, you will receive 5 points for completion

Unit 1 Test 81/100

Unit 1 Test corrections 5/0



## Technology Procedures

In order to use the Google Chromebook for required class activities, you must be responsible and follow to these rules and policies at all times. Remember, the device is at all times property of Mounds View Public Schools, not your personal device. Violation of these regulations can result in loss in use of the device.

1. Students will only use the device that is assigned specifically to them; do not let other students use or borrow your device unless directed by the teacher or staff
2. Do not place books or other items on top of the device
3. Shutdown and sign out completely when you are finished with your exercise, or class period (Do not plug in the device to charge between classes or during class without teacher permission)
4. Students should not personalize their devices in any way; this includes decals, screen savers, add ons and extensions and downloading any software, application or short cuts that have not been explicitly allowed by the teacher (devices will be periodically checked for unauthorized downloads)
5. Students will only use the device for school work.
6. Follow the teacher's instructions about:
  - a. Labeling documents/files prior to sharing
  - b. Verbal directions such as "screens closed"
  - c. Proper return of chromebooks to cart
7. If you notice that something is wrong with the device, report to your teacher immediately
8. No food or drinks allowed around the devices
9. Follow all Mounds View Public School policies and school rules pertaining to the use of technology

Students will use a variety of technology tools within the classroom including but not limited to Google classroom, socrative, quizlet, Edpuzzle, dot storming, and Google forms.

