

**Burke High School**  
**Mr. McBride's American Government Syllabus**

**Burke High School Mission Statement:** Burke High School is dedicated to providing an exemplary education through the collaborative efforts of students, parents, staff, and community.

**Instructor's Name and Course Location:** Aaron McBride; Pt. 6

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**Plan Periods:** Odd, 3 Even, 4

- **Course Description:** American Government is a required course through which students study the theories and practices that are the basis to our nation's form of government. Students will analyze the structure, operations, and functions of local, state, and national governments in order to better prepare themselves to practice participatory citizenship as related to their responsibilities and rights as citizens.
- **Content Standards**
  - Analyze and evaluate the foundation, structures, and functions of the United States government as well as local, state, and international governments.
  - Analyze the role and responsibilities of government in various economic systems.
  - Address local, state, national, or international issues and policies through meaningful civic participation.
  - Examine the government's influence on economic systems through fiscal policy.
- **Text:** Fraga, Luis Ricardo. *United States government: principles in practice*. Orlando, FL: Holt McDougal, 2012.
- **Units of Study**
  - **Unit One: Creation and Structures of Democratic Government**  
This unit will focus on the creation of a constitutional democracy, structures of a constitutional democracy, and the process through which it was created.
  - **Unit Two: Citizen Participation**  
Through this unit we will work to understand that citizen participation is an important component in a democratic society and that political parties, media, and interest groups influence that participation.
  - **Unit Three: Three Branches of Government**  
This unit will focus on the balance of power between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches created with our system of checks and balances.
  - **Unit Four: Government Policy**  
Through this unit we will work to understand the relationship between public policy and lawmaking as well as the role of various political institutions.
- **Course Expectations**
  - Students will maintain an online interactive student notebook containing daily student work.
  - Students will work independently and cooperatively to complete various assignments based upon class lectures, notes, discussion, debate, reading, research, current events assignments, and primary document analysis.
- **Required Materials:** School-issued or student-provided laptop with access to full 365 online Microsoft Office Suite.
- **Assessment**
  - Course grades will be determined by planned assessments such as quizzes, tests, and projects scored with rubrics.
  - Students will complete a quiz at the end of each chapter of study.
  - Major tests and/or writing projects are to be expected at the end of each unit outlined above.
- **Grading Scale**
  - A = 3.26 – 4.00
  - B = 2.51 – 3.25
  - C = 1.76 – 2.50
  - D = 1.01 – 1.75
  - F = 0.00 – 1.00
- **Redoing or Revising Coursework:** Students may be allowed redos and revisions of coursework for full credit during that unit of study, based upon the teacher's professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Scores for student work after retaking, revision, or redoing will not be averaged with the first attempt at coursework or assessment, but will replace the original score. No revisions or redos will be allowed after the end of the unit.
- **Late or Missing Coursework:** Students are expected to complete coursework on time. Late coursework may be accepted for full credit until the end of the unit, based on the teacher's professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Accepted late work will not result in a reduction of credit, and the M (missing) will be replaced with the score earned by the student. The teacher or school may make exceptions depending upon student circumstances, such as prolonged absences due to illness.
- **Class Rules and Expectations**
  - Come to class prepared to learn with materials needed for class.
  - Be in your assigned seat and ready to learn by the time the bell rings for class to start.
  - Be sure that your electronic devices, including your cell phone, are safely and silently stored away so that your full attention can be focused on the daily instruction and activities.
  - Give your full attention when your teacher or classmates are speaking to the class. If you have something to add, a question, or need to leave your seat, please raise your hand to be recognized.
  - You may bring bottled water with a lid to class, but all other food or drinks should be kept out of the classroom.
  - Please remain in your seat until I dismiss you at the end of class. Do not gather at the door in anticipation of the bell.
  - Please be aware that I will make every attempt to contact parent(s)/guardian(s) via email/phone should a student fail to meet academic/behavior expectations.