

American Government
Ed Cash—Revised 8/11/2019

This course will provide instruction in the government of the United States with a focus on participation in the political process. Concepts to be stressed will include the foundations of U.S. government with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution, political behavior and elections, the role of the United States in world affairs, individual liberties and civil rights, the structure of U.S. government, comparative government, economic systems, and civic participation.

We will **PRACTICE**...

...how to individually take responsibility for our learning.

...civil discourse that includes listening and responding with reason and respect. Reasoned discussion and debate may include a variety of legitimate answers.

...strategies concerning how to structure an argument and how to use evidence in order to understand complex issues.

Ground Rules for Ensuring a Civil Conversation

One of the hallmarks of a democracy is its citizens' willingness to express, defend, and perhaps reexamine their own opinions, while being respectful of the views of others. To ensure a civil conversation...

- Show respect for the views expressed by others, even if you strongly disagree.
- Be brief in your comments so that all who wish to speak have a chance to express their views.
- Direct your comments to the group as a whole, rather than to any one individual.
- Don't let disagreements or conflicting views become personal. Name-calling and shouting are not acceptable ways of conversing with others.
- Let others express their views without interruption. Your Dialogue leader will try to give everyone a chance to speak or respond to someone else's comments.
- Remember that a frank exchange of views can be fruitful, so long as you observe the rules of civil conversation.

These ground rules were developed by the American Bar Association.

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/american_jury/resources/dialogue_on_the_american_jury/ground_rules/

How do you see yourself participating in politics?

How well do you think you express your views?

How well do you think you listen to others?

Three Rules

1. Technology may be used in class only with my permission.
2. Students need a 3-ring binder with three sections:
 - a. Class Work and Homework
 - b. Tools
 - c. Graded Work
3. It is the student's responsibility of reminding me of missing work due to absences or other reasons.

Gradebook Category Weights & Late Work Policy

- 5% PPBE/Character Grade
- 10% Formative (e.g. hw, classwork, exit tickets)
 - You may not turn in formative assignments late.
You may drop the the 2 lowest grades if you are a junior and 1 low grade if you are a senior.
- 20% Final exam
- 65% Summative (e.g. quiz, unit exam, essay, project)
 - Unit exam
 - You will have at least 2 opportunities to demonstrate mastery that includes at least one chance to make-up a poor grade.
 - The re-do must be completed by an assigned date.
 - Essay, project, lab write up, or long term assignment
 - You will not have a chance to re-do these assignments. The late policy for these assignments is as follows:
 - Late 1-5 school days: 10% deduction per day
 - Late 6-10 school days: up to 50% credit possible
 - Late after 10 school days: no credit possible

Weebly

You will find class information, class materials, and assignments you may have missed at my Weebly site at <https://ecashdhs.weebly.com/>

turnitin.com

You must join our class in turnitin. All classes use the Enrollment Key demon.

Here are the Class ID's to sign up:

1st Period, 1st Semester (Govt 1-1): 21847456

1st Period, 2nd Semester (Govt 1-2): 21847571

What questions do you have about these three rules?

What questions do you have about these new policies?

Were you able to access my site?

Were you able to sign up for turnitin?

7th Period, 2nd Semester (Govt 7-20: 21847575)

Communication:

Parents and students may reach me in one of the following ways: n

Via email at ecash@durangoschools.org.

Call me at school at 259-1630 (2242).

My prep hour is 3rd period, or students may meet with me...

during lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

after school for sure from 3:20-4:30 on Tuesday and Thursdays.

after school on Wednesday and Friday (most of the time)

I will not be available during lunch on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Please do not detach this signature section.

Teacher Signature:

Ed Cash

Parent Signature:

Student Signature:

Please Print Student Name Here:

What is the best way
for you to
communicate with
me?