

**American Government**

**Instructor:** Mr. Charles Becker

Room 262|cmbecke1@asu.edu|(602) 496-3098| <http://cbeckerasuprep.weebly.com>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION and PURPOSE**

This course offers an in-depth study of the components and workings of the American government using *We the People*, Common Core literacy objectives, and Arizona state standards. **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** **Program** promotes civic competence and responsibility among the nation’s upper elementary and secondary students. The program enjoys active support from state bar associations and foundations,
and other educational, professional, business, and community organizations across the nation. Since its inception in 1987, more than 28 million students and 75,000 educators have participated in the We the People Program.

 Armed with this knowledge, students will become more responsible citizens who embody the ASU Preparatory mission of preparing students to complete college, compete globally, and contribute to their communities.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Students should come to class prepared to work. This includes bringing the following everyday:

* *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Level 3* (2015). Calabasas: Center for Civic Education (provided by ASU Preparatory Academy)
* 3 ring binder (I suggest at least 2”) exclusively for this course
* loose leaf, college-ruled paper and/or spiral or composition notebook
* something with which to write
* access to a reputable news source such as the *Arizona Republic*, *Washington Pos*t, *Wall Street Journal* (via printed or electronic means)

**DAILY CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

Students will follow the ASU Prep Way (Work Hard, Be Kind, and Be Smart) at all times. Additionally, the following classroom expectations apply in room 262:

**Respect your school.** Follow school policies and procedures as outlined in the Student Handbook. Treat school property with care. Do not bring any food or drinks to class (other than bottled water).

**Respect your community.** Follow classroom rules and social guidelines. Put away cell phones, music players, and other non-educational electronic devices during class time. Listen attentively while others are speaking. Use only language that is respectful and appropriate for the classroom setting.

**Respect yourself.** Turn in work complete and on time. Be responsible for keeping up with missed assignments. Bring all needed materials to class every day. Take care of personal needs before or after class.

**Plagiarism and Academic Honesty**[[1]](#footnote-1)

Plagiarism, the use of someone else’s materials, words and/or ideas without giving proper credit, will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, even unintentional, is a serious form of cheating and can endanger a student’s academic reputation and, possibly, future career. Students who choose to plagiarize will receive zero credit for the assignment with no opportunity to make it up. Any further incidence of cheating will result in a disciplinary referral.

**Attendance and Make-Up Work**

Please refer to the student handbook for details of ASU Prep’s tardy and absence policies. Students are expected to attend every class. You are responsible and accountable for all the information presented in class whether or not you are in class. Work assigned prior to an absence is expected on the due date whether or not you are in class that day. Students are expected to make up missing work outside of regular class time. Failure to turn in assignments in a timely fashion may result in student completing an alternative assessment. My Planbook, with the day’s activities, most course documents, and homework assignments, is available on my Weebly site. ([http://cbeckerasuprep.weebly.com](http://chartsfieldasuprep.weebly.com/)).

**EVALUATION and ASSESSMENT**

Student mastery will be measured in terms of mastery of specific standards. Mastery of standards over the entire year will determine the final grade. This will be measured through classwork, homework assignments, Socratic Circle participation, research-based projects, quizzes, exams. There are five assessment objectives in this course:

The following grades indicate that the student has demonstrated mastery of

• A+ = 97-100% of standards

• A = 90-96% of standards

• B = 80-89% of standards

• C = 70-79% of standards

• D = 60-69% of standards

• F = 59% or fewer of standards

• I = (Incomplete) Cannot assess; standard not attempted

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO MR. BECKER**

**Student Name:**

**Parent/Guardian Preferred Contact Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I prefer that you contact me by phone / email / other (please explain)

Is there any other information that you think it would be helpful to know about your son/daughter?

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)