

TO: American Government Students

FROM: COL (Ret) W.P.Holmes, Tutor

DATE: July 4, 2011

SUBJECT: American Government at Cornerstone  
Academic Year 2011-2012

I am most pleased to have the opportunity to share my interest in our government system with each of you. In order for this to be a rewarding experience for us, I offer the following guidelines:

- The text book is the primary source of study for the American Government portion of the studies. There will be no text book for Basic Economics. I will provide a glossary list when and where appropriate. For American Government, you are expected to thoroughly digest the contents of each Chapter. If you understand the questions asked in each Chapter Review you will be well on the way to success in the course. However, this text book is very basic and is only one source for our studies. We will explore many avenues of material and many sources of academic insight into our governmental and economic structure.
- Homework assignments are the foundation of your studies. The text book is the source of most quizzes, tests and questions on exams.
- Classroom time is our time to expand, explore, debate, question and evaluate the vast expanse of material which supports the areas of study..
- Hopefully, you will not be absent from what little time we have together. A ‘Buddy’ system will be created so that if you miss a class your ‘Buddy’ will assist in updating you. YOU are ultimately responsible for all assignments.
- Taking of notes and maintaining a notebook is a lifelong requirement. That is all I will say about this important function.
- A typical day in the classroom will begin with a prayer, review of current events (I expect you to be aware of the world around you. Read the newspaper, listen to radio newscasts, watch TV news, etc.) , turn in homework, quiz, lecture/video/guest speaker/skill challenges/debates on current events/or other special activities. This is critical as the period from the beginning of classes throughout the year we will be focused on the run up to the 2012 elections.
- Evaluations will be based on the following: quizzes, tests, exams, major projects (one per year- 2d Semester), and class participation. A progress report will be provided mid-semester and a written evaluation will be issued at the end of each semester.
- Expect to participate in at least one field trip per semester. These will be planned with the help of interested parents. I solicit your ideas.

You can contact me at any time: (410) 721-4058; Email - [wph3@comcast.net](mailto:wph3@comcast.net)

Have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. See you in September.

