

# Tokyo International Progressive School

## Grade 12 American Government Course Outline

2021-2022

### Brock Spore Room 23

#### DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

“But why do I have to take American Government if I’m not American?!” A good question and I get it all the time. For now, TIPS uses an American-based distance learning program at the upper levels. Besides that, most governments around the world are representative democracies with the three branches of government that the good old US of A thought might be a good experiment about 240 years ago.

The class first studies the makeup and functions of Congress. Next students learn about the roles of the US president and how it has changed over the years. Then students learn about the government itself and how it functions. The Judicial Branch curriculum challenges students to interpret the constitution in an ever-changing society. Finally the course goes over the civil rights and civil liberties guaranteed to all citizens.

In addition, this class offers a great opportunity for students to expand their vocabulary and use textbooks as a source for information. We also have frequent discussions about government policy and these involve universal themes so students quickly get over their (understandable) apprehension. The assessments for this course consist of six evaluations, three projects and three progress tests.

**Materials:** *Magruder’s American Government*. Boston, Massachusetts: Prentice Hall, 2013.

Each student will be issued one textbook for which they are responsible for the entire year. **If a numbered lent textbook is not returned in usable condition by the required date, your family will be asked to pay for a replacement for the book.**

#### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to have all materials plus notebooks in every class. They may store the textbook in their locker or in the space provided in the classroom. Students should be ready to read from the textbook when the beginning bell rings. As the grading is carried out by UNHS, there is no late policy. However, students will receive a zero on Quickschools until any late assignment is handed in. There is no retest policy.

Gum chewing is not allowed in the classroom. Students may eat only fresh fruit. Drinks are allowed only if they are in a closed container, no cans are allowed. Listening to music is not permitted.

### EARNING YOUR GRADE

Your grade will be determined by your work in these categories:

Grade Category	Percentage of your grade
Evaluations	30%
Projects	34%
Progress Tests	36%

The grading scale for this course will be:

Letter grade	Mark range
A+	97-100
A	92-96
B+	88-91
B	83-87
C+	79-82
C	74-78
D+	70-73
D	65-69
F	64 or below

### IMPORTANT DATES

Assessment	Date
Evaluation #1	Sept. 10
Project #1	Sept. 14
Evaluation #2	Sept. 29
Progress Test 1	Oct. 1
Evaluation #3	Oct. 20
Project #2	Oct. 27
Evaluation #4	Nov. 17
Progress Test #2	Nov. 24

Evaluation #5	Dec. 10
Project #3	Jan. 19
Evaluation #6	Jan. 21
Progress Test #3	Jan. 25