

CVA American Government Syllabus



Class Description

A study of the local, state, and federal governmental functions. Citizenship rights and responsibilities are emphasized. Focus areas include development of our political system, federalism, civil liberties, political parties, political theory and comparative government. Also, the functions of our executive, legislative, and judicial branches of govt. will be studied.

Click [HERE](#) for the American Government Class Schedule which outlines the Units, Lessons, and Assessments for this course.

Click [HERE](#) for the GSE American Government State standards.

Class Outline

Unit 1: Civic Participation

This unit examines the concept of citizenship, including what it means to be a citizen and the different levels of community they belong to. The unit will cover various layers of citizenship, from their homes and schools to their cities, states, and country, highlighting the rights and responsibilities at each level.

Unit 2: Foundations of Government

This unit examines the various systems of government and develops student knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of the United States constitutional government.

Unit 3: The Constitution

This unit develops understanding and knowledge of the framing and structure of the United States Constitution. Students will analyze various compromises during the drafting of the Constitution, and they will examine how the Constitution addressed weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation.

Unit 4: Campaigns and Elections

This unit examines local, state, and national elections. Topics include the nomination and election process, campaign finance, and the effects of the media, campaign advertising, and public opinion polls on the outcomes of elections. In addition, students will investigate the importance of participation in civic life.

Unit 5: The Legislative Branch

This unit examines how rules and laws are created in the American Government. Through it, students will investigate the legislative process, the House of Representatives and the Senate, the function of committees and leadership, the role of lobbyists in the legislative process, and impeachment.

Unit 6: The Executive Branch

This unit examines the executive branch of government, including: the formal and informal qualifications to run for President, the term of office and line of succession, the roles of the President, and how the Electoral College works in electing the President.

Unit 7: The Judicial Branch

In this unit, students will examine the United States judicial branch and criminal justice system. Students will focus on the operation of the judicial branch including: the selection and approval process for federal judges, original and appellate jurisdiction, the concept of judicial review and judicial activism, and the responsibilities of the Supreme Court.

CVA Work Policy

- All classwork must be completed and submitted using the links in CTLS by the DUE DATE listed on the Class Schedule.
- Work should be completed in the order it is assigned on the Class Schedule.
- All work submitted on time will be graded within 48 hours.
- Assignments not submitted by the due date will be marked missing. Missing assignments are calculated as zeros in the coursework average. When students submit missing work, the assignment will be graded and calculated into the coursework average.

The CVA term ends prior to the end of the traditional school semester. The final date work will be accepted each term is posted on the [CVA website](http://cobbvirtualacademy.org) (cobbvirtualacademy.org) and the Class Schedule.

Grading

Grades for this course are calculated based on category percentages as follows:

Category	Weight
Assignments	50%
Discussion Boards	15%
Tests	25%
Final Exam	10%

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of learning at CVA and we take the integrity and authenticity of student work very seriously. When academic integrity is maintained, students will make decisions based on values that will prepare them to be productive, meaningful, and ethical citizens.



Students are required to abide by the CVA Academic Integrity Policy. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. The CVA Academic Integrity Policy outlines the consequences if students fail to maintain academic integrity in their course. For additional information, the CVA Academic Integrity Policy is posted on the [CVA website](#).



Academic Integrity Process

Consequences	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Parent contact by teacher	✓	✓	✓	✓
Resubmit work for full credit	✓			
Resubmit work for half credit		✓		
Automatic zero			✓	✓
Parent contact by CVA administration			✓	✓
Notification by CVA administration to local school			✓	✓
Mandated proctored exam or coursework				✓
Other as designated by CVA or local school administration	✓	✓	✓	✓

General Information

- The Cobb Teaching and Learning System (CTLs) is the platform used to deliver Cobb Virtual Academy classes.
- Students must earn 100% on the Student Orientation Quiz located inside each CVA Digital Classroom before they begin their Student Coursework.
- All coursework must be submitted through CTLs.
- All CCSD students have access to Microsoft 365 applications and must submit assignments in the requested format.
- Students in this course will take an online final exam during the window of time published on the CVA website and the Class Schedule.



Technology Requirements

CTLS is geo-restricted to the United States.

- A modern PC or Mac Computer
 - Lightweight or mobile devices such as Chromebooks, iPads, Android tablets, or smartphones **may not** be compatible with many of our courses.
 - Windows or Mac based computer
- Access to Microsoft 365
- Internet access

CVA Expectations

Student

- Maintain consistent access to a computer and internet
- Login to the course daily and review the announcements
- Adhere to the deadlines listed on the Class Schedule
- Read and promptly respond to teacher communication
- Contact the teacher with questions
- Manage your time wisely

Teacher

- Welcome Phone Call in the first two weeks
- 24-hour turnaround on all communication
- 24 – 48-hour turnaround on grading for items submitted by the due date
- Provide relevant feedback on assignments
- Be accessible via email and phone or text during published hours
- Provide two or more live sessions per term

CTLS Parent Account

Cobb Virtual Academy teachers use CTLS Parent to communicate with students and parents. Students will automatically receive communication sent from CTLS Parent via their CCSD student email address and will be asked to provide a cell phone number to receive text communications. Directions for students to set up CTLS Parent are located in the CVA Orientation. Parents will receive communications according to their existing notification settings.

Student Support

A student's first source for support is their CVA teacher. However, additional support is available. The **CVA Learning Center** is staffed with facilitators and is available both **in person** and **virtually**.

Facilitators can assist students with getting started, class navigation, assignment instructions, submitting work, technical issues, and strategies for online success.



The in-person Learning Center is on the Cobb Horizon High School campus at 1765 The Exchange Atlanta, GA.

All CVA students are enrolled in the Student Support digital classroom which provides access to the Virtual Learning Center (VLC). Students use the CTLS chat feature to send a message to the Student Support Team during the hours it is open.

Live Sessions

Your teacher will post live session information to the Class Board.

