COURSE SYLLABUS

HIS 1201
American Government

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Government is needed to restrain sin; to preserve order; and to protect the life, liberty, and property of all individuals. This course will evaluate the foundation of American Government. Paying particular attention to the purpose and roles of all government, the course will emphasize the United States Constitution, the three branches of government, the separation of powers, and the issues, interests and institutions of American politics. The primary purpose of this course is to train people for effective citizenship.

II. RATIONALE
American Government provides the student with an understanding of the foundation of the American republic and the workings of the American system of government. It will also provide a basic understanding of Virginia government since 1607. Knowledge of the development and structure of American and Virginia government will provide the student with the tools necessary to develop civic appreciation and good citizenship.

III. PREREQUISITES
None.

IV. MATERIALS LIST
Microsoft Office or compatible software

V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will be able to:

A. Identify major political philosophies that have influenced the development of the United States and Virginia government

B. Describe the original plan of the American republic and describe how it has shifted to a more democratic form of government

C. Evaluate and analyze primary source documents

D. Identify and evaluate provisions of the Constitution of the United States and how each applies to federalism
E. Identify and evaluate the development of the Virginia Constitution from colonial settlement to the present

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
A. Individual lesson assessments (1 per lesson)
B. Section Quizzes
C. Writing Assessments
D. 1 Test per Unit
E. 1 Final Exam

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES
A. Grading Weights
   Lesson Assignments 25%
   Quizzes and Written Assignments 35%
   Tests 40%
B. Scale
   A 90 – 100
   B 80 – 89
   C 70 – 79
   D 60 – 69
   F 59 and below

VIII. Other Policies
A. Academic Misconduct
   See pages 32-35 of your Student Handbook
B. Repeating Assignments
   Students may submit review assignments a maximum of 2 times. All other assignments are subject to teacher discretion. Assignment resubmission policy from the Student Handbook is as follows:

   All students are expected to submit their best work on the first submission for any assignment. At the discretion of individual teachers and with his or her express permission, assignments may be resubmitted for credit. Feedback on a specific assignment will indicate whether or not the assignment is eligible for resubmission. Teachers will not score any assignment resubmitted without prior approval. Assignments that have been approved for resubmission must be completed before the student progresses more than one module beyond the repeated assignment. For example, a student currently working in Module 4 may request a resubmission in Module 3. Projects in Module 1 and 2 would not be allowed at that point in time.