

American Government

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classroom: C-207

Course Overview:

We the Peopleare going Constitutional. This course will examine the fundamentals of government on national, state and local levels. This includes the three branches of government, rights & responsibilities of American citizenship, and the role of political parties in our system. Also, we will examine the U.S. Constitution, Constitutional Amendments, U.S. Supreme Court cases and the U.S. legal system.

In addition, this course prepares students for the academic rigors of higher education and the working world. Students will need an open mind, respect for themselves, classmates, the instructor, and their surroundings. This class will be quite beneficial in understanding of how our country works. Students who gain the most are the ones who put forth the maximum effort to see how what we learn applies directly to their own lives.

Throughout the semester, we will conduct class using a variety of methods: lecture/discussion, simulations, cooperative learning activities and independent research. Students need to become familiar with current events through the credible of online news outlets. A variety of news video clips will be shown throughout the course.

The course meets all Arizona State Standards for a high school government course and fulfills the graduation requirements of the Chandler Unified School District. All information contained in this syllabus is subject to change at the teacher's discretion.

Major Assignments & Activities:

1. Students will be assessed through completion of class assignments, unit organizers, quizzes, unit tests, discussions, activities, and projects.
2. Length of assignments will vary daily, but students should expect some homework throughout the semester.

Student Expectations:

1. Show up to class on-time and prepared each day. This means all homework is done, assignments are read, and the proper materials brought to class.
2. Engage in class discussions, which are meant to stimulate ideas, foster intellectual growth and provide confidence to all students involved. No shutting down.
3. Turn off your phone and check it into the pockets upon entering class. We will use them as learning tools, as well. I'll let you know when.

4. **Required supplies.** Have a notebook for class notes, number two pencils, ballpoint pen (blue or black ink).
5. All assignments will be typed **or** completed in BLUE or BLACK ink only. Pencil and/or colored ink will not be accepted.
6. Do not ask to use the restroom during instruction, presentations, or activities. In fact, make every effort to keep restroom breaks to a minimum.
7. Every rule in the Perry handbook regarding plagiarism, cheating, food, hats, dress code, language, and conduct is enforced in this class. No disparaging talk about teachers or other students- verbal/cyber.

Controversial Topics:

All government systems are laden with the righteous & the sleazeballs; the mundane & the tantalizing; persecutions & liberties; politics & religion. The content of this class deals with current real world, controversial issues. ***It is vital that everyone is respectful of each other's opinions, backgrounds, beliefs, and world views. There will be a lot of agreement and disagreement on topics. Listening is essential to communicating. Everyone is to be valued and respected.***

Grading Scale, Attendance & Make-up Work:

Consistent attendance is vital for success. Your semester grade consists of class assignments, projects, homework, quizzes, and tests. Per the Social Studies Dept. policy grades are quantified and scaled:

Semester grade = 40% (Quarter 1) + 40% (Quarter 2) + 20% (Final Exam)

100%-90%=A 89%-80%= B 79%-70% = C 69%-60%= D Below 60% =F

Grades are rounded up only if they meet the 9.5 or higher threshold. Do NOT ask to have your grade rounded up for anything less than this. Do NOT come to me on bended knee on or near Finals week to ask for extra credit. The answer will be no and you will have created an awkward situation.

Excused absences. You will have the same number of days as your absence to make up tests and assignments. It is 1000% your responsibility to check the website and/or ask classmates what you missed.

Late policy. Assignments submitted 1-day late, can earn 50%. After that, it zeros out in the gradebook. If you are absent from a quiz or test, you are responsible for arranging a make-up to be taken *within two school days* of the assessment. If not, it will zero out in the gradebook.

Field trips and sports. Plan around them. I know your coaches, and I know you know your game schedules. Field trips are also planned weeks in advance. Assignments are due beforehand.

Life gets difficult. Seriously. Please tell me in advance when you cannot get computer access at home, are struggling in classes, incur health problems, or become overly stressed out. We will find solutions *before* things get unmanageable. There's a difference between excuses and legitimate difficulties. I'm on your side.