**A.P. American Government Syllabus**

Ms. Weaver

School phone: 480-883-5111 E-mail: weaver.diana@cusd80.co

**Class Format**

The semester will be divided into units. These units will each last approximately three-four weeks. Class participation and discussion are expected in this course.

**Projects**

Students will be engaged in several projects during the semester. The projects will be worth as much as 20% of your final grade. Some projects will be done in groups, and some completed by individual students.

**Tests & Quizzes**

Students will take one test per unit of study. These tests will be multiple choice, and written response.

**Grading**

All assignments in the class will be given a point total. Tests and homework are not weighted categories, but tests and other assessments will be the majority of you grade as is reflective of a college-level class. Each quarter will be 40% of the semester grade and the final exam will be 20% of the final grade.

**Assessment**

Students will be assessed on projects, quizzes, tests, journals, homework assignments and the final.



**Units of Study**

**Unit One – Foundations of American Democracy**

Major Topics: Basic Principles

 Citizenship & Democracy

 Origins of our governmental structure

 The Constitution

 Federalism

 Media

**Unit Two – Interactions Among Branches of Government**

Major Topics: Congressional Structure

 Powers of Congress

 The Presidency

 Presidential Powers

 The Bureaucracy

 Financing Government

 Making Foreign Policy

 The Federal Courts

**Unit Three –Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

Major Topics:

 Bill of Rights

 Civil Liberties

 Civil Rights

 Equality

 Social Movements

 Minority and Majority Rights

**Unit Four – American Political Ideologies and Beliefs**

Major Topics:

 Ideology

 Political Socialization

**Unit Five – Political Participation**

Major Topics:

 Elections

 Campaigns

 Civic Participation

 Voting

 Political Parties

 Interest Groups

 

# Course Requirements

**Homework**

Homework assignments will be given to reinforce material that we cover in class. Homework will be graded on a point system according to length and difficulty of the assignment. Homework is due at the beginning of class**. Late work will be accepted the next class day only for ½ credit**. In the event of major extenuating circumstance, the student’s parent or guardian may contact the instructor for discussion of extension of deadlines.

**Classwork**

Class time will be devoted to discussions and activities. Students are expected to be engaged and involved every day. Class work will be graded on length and difficulty.

**Tests**

Tests will usually be worth 100 points, with variations according to the amount of material covered. Tests will cover material from classroom notes, homework, and the textbook

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**Notebooks**

You are required to keep a notebook for this class. The notebooks may be used for parent/teacher conferences and to assess ongoing performance in the class. Students should keep all work completed in the notebook until the end of the course. Notebooks are useful tools for final exam and AP exam review.

**Projects and Papers**

We will do several projects during the semester. Each project will be allocated points according to the difficulty of the assignment. Since projects are a substantial part of your grade, it is important that they are taken seriously and done correctly and thoroughly. Sufficient time will be given to complete projects. They are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. Projects turned in after that time will lose 10% per day up to the 5th day. Projects will not be accepted after that.

**Grading**

The course carries a weighted grade and will follow the rigorous curriculum set by the College Board. Each quarter is weighted at 40% with the final exam weighted at 20% Individual assignments will be scored on a point basis with tests, quizzes and projects having more points than day-to-day assignments

**Grading Scale**

The grading scale is as follows:

A 90.0-100%

B 80.0-89.9%

C 70.0-79.9%

D 60.0-69.9%

F 59.9% or less

**Final Exam**

All students will take the final exam to compete the course. Students must turn in their textbook, or pay for it prior to being allowed to take the exam. The final exam will be 20% of the semester total grade. It is recommended that you keep all of your notes and homework assignments throughout the semester to study. They will greatly assist you in preparing for your final exam.

**Attendance**

Course content is discussed extensively in class, and in-class activities reinforce the material. Missing class seriously impedes a student’s ability to succeed. If you are out sick or for any other excused absence, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to get missed assignments. Assignments missed due to excused absences must be turned in one day after the student returns, unless additional permission has been given by the instructor. Missed exams or quizzes also must be made up within one day of the students return at the instructor’s convenience.

**Tardy**

More than 4 tardies will result in a phone call home.

**Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) & Media Policy**

In AP Econ, there will be occasions where students are asked to bring their own technology to class to work on projects, research, etc. if they like: we will also use the library lab or school computers when available. Refer to the student handbook for more information.

**Cell phones and other electronics (including laptops and headphones) should be put away unless specifically requested by the instructor for an academic purpose (e.g., work days).**

Technology will be used as a tool, not a crutch – not a distraction. Students who have technological devices out during inappropriate times will have the device confiscated for the rest of the period. More than one violation will have the device referred to security and a referral issued.

**Disability Statement**

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, please see me at your earliest convenience to discuss your accommodation needs and referral services.

**Cheating / Plagiarism**

Any form of cheating will result in a zero on the assignment/assessment. Cheating may be cause for removal from National Honor Society or other leadership positions held in school. Refer to the student handbook for more.

**Diversity Statement**

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of Hamilton High School’s educational community, students are expected to refrain from participation in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student’s race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religious preference, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or disability.

**Excessive Absences**

A.R.S. §15-803 (B) states that absences may be considered excessive when the number of absent days exceeds ten percent of the number of required attendance days prescribed in A.R.S. §15-802. Ten percent equates to nine (9) days of absences per semester regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused.  Students with excessive excused absences will be required to provide medical documentation to remain in class and excuse any further absences. If additional absences occur, and medical documentation is not provided, the student will be referred to administration**.**

**Tutoring: Mon/Wed 2:15-2:45 C109A**



 **Online Expectations**

**Appropriate use of technology – board policy**

**IJNDC-R:**

The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the District be used in a safe responsible and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning. It is the policy of the Chandler Unified School District to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all electronic resource activities by staff and students. The District reserves the right to monitor use of the District’s systems for improper use without warning or prior consent. Students shall be informed that computer files and electronic communications, including email, are not private and may be accessed by the District at any time. Inappropriate use may result in disciplinary action and/or legal action in accordance with the law and Board policy. Please visit the student handbook at https://www.cusd80.com/handbooks for further details about appropriate use of technology use.

**Virtual Attendance Statement**

Attendance is based on engagement. If a student is not present for synchronous instruction and does not complete the asynchronous/alternative assignment for the daily class meeting, then the student is considered absent. Teachers will contact attendance clerks once a student is determined to be absent.

**Online Classroom Procedures**

Google Classroom is our online platform. Students are expected to check for assignments each day the class is scheduled to meet. We are on a rolling block day schedule so class meets every other day. Day 1 classes are 1,3,5 and Day 2 classes are 2,4,6 New assignments are posted under classwork tab and announcements are posted in the stream. Grades will be maintained and updated in Infinite Campus weekly. Your grade in google classroom is not your final grade. Please check Infinite Campus often.

**Tutoring availability**

Online 30 minutes in each block to be determined

It is my pleasure to help you in any way I can!

Enjoy the semester!