

Government & History Syllabus

“The future of our democracy relies on the education of the electorate”

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Availability for Assistance: If you need help or have a question regarding my class, you may stop by any time before school. After the football season is over you may stop by after school. I am not available after school during football. If you need to make up a quiz or get missing homework, we will arrange a meeting before school.

Courses:

Government – This is a senior level course where we will go over historical documents and historical figures related to the founding of our government. Students will learn of different forms of government and how they differ. We will spend time going over the three branches of our government, particularly the Legislative branch. Aside from these major topics, we will be discussing and reading current events that are linked to the chapters in our textbook. We will also follow along with any major political issues and elections on both the state and national levels.

U.S. History – This course starts at the Civil War and chronologically continues to the present day. Students will learn of historical events, people, and outcomes that have happened in our country. In addition, we will learn of U.S. involvement in the world and how we have grown into the country we are today. We will also analyze the actions and choices of the American people in a social, economical, and political aspect.

World History & Geography – This course involves historical content from ancient civilizations to pre-colonial times. In addition, we will also study the geographical features of each civilization. We will review for the map tests at the beginning of every period. Students will learn of the cultural customs, trade, travel, and conflict of societies throughout the world. We will examine how these events and actions lead to powerful dominating nations as well as new forms of leadership and government.

Textbooks and Materials: We will primarily be using the textbooks issued on the first day along with primary sources that I will provide. There will be times when you will have to research for reliable materials pertaining to a topic.

Supplies: You will need to bring your textbook, notebook, and writing utensil every day. If you forget to come prepared, you may borrow a writing utensil by exchanging another object of greater value, which will be returned when the utensil is returned. For example, you give me your car keys and you can borrow a pen or pencil. At the end of class, you can return the pen or pencil for your keys.

General Course Overview:

- Reading (mostly out loud as a class, otherwise silently)
- Quizzes (20 oral questions)
- Notes (occasionally a certain style, otherwise any style)
- Group and individual activities (mostly done in class during one period)
- Group and individual projects (time will be given for research and presentation)
- Essays and short responses (time will be given for research and analysis)
- Tests (multiple choice, true or false, matching, short and long responses)
- Kahoots (laptops will be available for those who do not want to use their phones)

Grading: All assignments, projects, and tests are graded on a points system. Test and projects are worth the most points, ranging from 60-100. Each chapter has a test and the majority of the time a project. Activities and other assignments range from 10-40 points, quizzes are worth 20 points, and each day is worth 5 points based on individual participation, behavior, and effort. Daily points are added up at the end of the week and entered in as one grade worth 25 points, depending on the number of school days that week. All projects will be accompanied with a rubric which lists the requirements and how you will be graded.

Rules and Expectations: One must always consider their audience and purpose in any situation. This is my main rule and when followed correctly, there won't be a need for consequences. Under Audience and Purpose, responsibility is a major component. You are responsible for coming to class prepared both mentally and physically, paying attention, and asking for help or clarification if needed. Respect and effort also need to be considered. You will respect the school, everyone involved with the school, and yourself. You will be positive of different thoughts and ideas. In addition, your effort must be of the highest form. Every day you will need to give your very best and work hard in all you do. Finally, I will not tolerate rude behavior and you will be asked to leave my room if you fail to follow these rules and expectations.

Homework and Makeup Work: You may check out before you leave but I do not require you to turn in your make up work before you skip school. However many days you are gone, you have that many days to make up your work and get it turned in. For example, if you are gone one day and we take a quiz or complete an assignment, you have the next day to make up the quiz or assignment. All assignments are due at the beginning of class, unless stated otherwise. I will not track you down and remind you of your missing work or what we did when you were gone. If you turn in something a day late, it will be a loss of half the points. If you do not make up your missing work it will result in a zero.