

2020-2021 Course Syllabus

We are starting the year with distance learning so Google Classroom will be our platform and hub for the class. All assignments and communications will be posted on our Google Classroom page. All assignments will be turned in through Google Classroom as well. We will be using Zoom for our live meetings. *A note on what Google Classroom is. It is a safe place where students can ask questions, seek help, share knowledge, and contribute to academic discussions. *A note on what Google Classroom is not. It is not social media. It is not a place for students to post content that is not appropriately related to our class and subject.

American Government/Economics

Mr. Messineo

Room T7

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Course Description:

Fall: Students in grade twelve pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the Federalist Papers. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

Spring: Students in grade twelve learn the economic concepts of scarcity, opportunity cost, and compare and contrast the free enterprise system with other economic systems. They will also understand the laws of supply and demand and how they impact prices. They will examine the different types of market structures, business organizations, and labor organizations. Students will come away with a solid foundation of how our government impacts our economy by examining taxation, spending, and the Federal Reserve System. Finally, personal financial literacy will be stressed throughout Spring Semester.

Textbooks:

Magruder's *American Government*, Prentice Hall *Economics*

Course Objectives:

In addition to the above course description, students will also be expected to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

- Analyzing text, both primary and secondary sources.
- Writing well-organized persuasive essays in which they interpret sources and events to formulate, support, and defend their own opinions and conclusions.
- Working Collaboratively
- Thinking Critically
- Communicating Effectively
- Creativity

Senior Civic Action Project:

Students will have to complete a year-long project which will require them to meet all of the above course objectives. The project is designed to get students to engage in civic issues in order to understand the processes that affect law and policy changes in America. It will also give them the opportunity to pursue a topic/issue that they are passionate about or didn't know they were passionate about. This project will earn students points in both Fall Semester Government class.

Grading Policy:

I don't want to overcomplicate things this year so grades will be based on the total points earned for all assignments. Your points/total possible points= your %

Grading Scale

It is your responsibility to prove any discrepancies with the grade sheet.

90-100%= A	70-79%= C	59% or lower= F
80-89%= B	60-69%= D	

Classroom Rules:

Students are expected to conduct themselves as young adults AT ALL TIMES!

Not only are you expected to comply with the school rules, you are expected to comply with mine as well.

Rule #1- Be quiet! (If you have something to say raise your hand, and wait to be called on.)

Rule#2- Be Polite. (Conduct yourself in a proper manner at all time, "Please", "Thank you", and "May I", go a long way...) Polite also means no profanity.

If you have to think maybe something is rude or inappropriate to ask, it probably is.

Rule #3- You are responsible for what you miss even if your absence is excused.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior- 3 strikes and you're out. You will get two warnings during class and if the behavior doesn't stop you will be referred to the discipline office.

I reserve the right to make adjustments to my class as I see fit; pop quizzes, seating changes, etc.

Sincerely,

Mr. Messineo