

12th Grade Principles of U.S. Government Syllabus

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Room Number:

Course Summary:

In this course, students apply knowledge gained in the previous Social Studies courses to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of the U.S. Government. Students will explore the foundations of American democracy, historical and modern constitutional issues, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students will conclude with a study of modern economics. This course is the culmination of history/social sciences classes to prepare students to solve today's problems, understand and participate in the governmental process, and become responsible citizens of the United States and the world.

GOALS:

Students will:

- Demonstrate content mastery and application of appropriate content literacy and critical thinking skills.
- Raise questions, solve problems, reason, and reflect in their understanding of their own learning styles.
- Demonstrate learning through portfolios, exhibitions, simulations, and debates.
- Communicate effectively and appropriately for a variety of purposes.

GRADING:

| Factors | Brief Description | Grade Percentage Per Quarter |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Practice and Application | Includes all assignments completed within the class setting and outside the classroom. Recommended assignment types include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document Based Analysis • Writing Tasks • Analysis of Sources i.e. Political Cartoons, Charts, Graphs, Maps etc. • Simulations i.e. Debate, Town Hall Meetings, Mock Trials etc. • Content Readings • Study Guides • Video Analysis • Article Review | 50% |
| Engagement | Includes all assignments completed inside of the class setting. Recommended assignment types include but are not limited to: | |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm-Ups • Icebreakers • Exit Tickets • Class Participation | 10% |
| Assessment | <p>Includes formative and summative assessment. Assessments must address content standards and vary to address student population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Assessment • Benchmarks • Project Based Assessment i.e. Research Paper, Exhibit, Performance, Website, Simulation etc. | 40% |

Classroom Expectations:

- **Attendance is MANDATORY.** Students will come to class on time.
- **Students will not disrupt the class.**
- Cell Phones are **not allowed** unless for certain assignments.
 1. 1st offense: Verbal redirection.
 2. 2nd offense: student will drop their phone in a bin until the end of the class period.
 3. 3rd offense: The student device will be confiscated, and a parent/guardian will be required to pick up the device from the main office by 5 PM. Those devices not picked up by this time will be locked up for the evening where they can be retrieved the next day.
 4. 4th offense the student will be required to turn in their device upon arrival.
- **No eating in the classroom.** Water is allowed.
- Only two students can leave to use the bathroom. Students must have a pass to leave the classroom. Students can only use the bathroom 10 minutes after class starts. Students cannot go to the bathroom in less than 10 minutes until class is over.

Assessments and Assignments:

Participation Grade (10-20 points): Participation is graded each class. Students could gain a maximum of 10 points on Monday and 20 points Tuesday-Friday. Students will lose points for:

- Unexcused Tardiness (which varies on how late the student is).
- Behavior issues and Classroom disruption.
- Cellphone usage.

Students will receive the lowest grade for participation if they have an unexcused absence.

Warm-Ups (10-25 points): Students will complete daily warm-ups on Canvas. Warm-Ups cannot be made up if there is an unexcused absence or tardy.

Independent Assignments: Assignments are due (some in Canvas and some are hard copy). Any assignment that is submitted late will have points taken off.

Quizzes: All quizzes are open note. However, they will be unannounced.

Assessments: There will be a Midterm and a Final Exam (one per quarter).

Plagiarism:

According to the dictionary, plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. This includes:

- Copying and pasting from a website/online article without crediting the original source.
- Paraphrasing without crediting the original source.
- Having another person write the assignment for you or copying off directly from them.
- Buying papers online.

All typed assignments will be cited (MLA or AP Style). **Anyone caught will get an automatic F (lowest grade possible) on the assignment.**

***The Syllabus is subject to change.**

I have read and reviewed the course syllabus, course standards, and expectations. Note that you AND a parent/guardian must sign this page. It is due on the second day of class.

Student's Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date