
U.S. Government and Citizenship
2009-2010

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"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretions." -Thomas Jefferson (1820)

It is my privilege to welcome you back to another school year. As seniors, you have the opportunity to study U.S. politics, a subject matter that is applicable to each of us as United States citizens. This course is designed to teach you the basic role and function of the United States government as well as an understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights as applied to your daily life. My hope is that you will leave the class this year as a more informed and contributing member of society and that you will gain a greater appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy as a result of our system of government.

Expectations

Every day, you are expected to:

1. Be on time.
2. Have all appropriate class materials which include
 - a. Your Notebook/Portfolio for this class
 - b. Paper
 - c. Pen or Pencil
 - d. Any assignments completed
3. Follow ALL class rules.

Class Constitution

As a citizen of this classroom, I will...

1. Take responsibility for learning
2. Respect others' right to learn
3. Treat all property with respect
4. Create a safe and friendly atmosphere

Citizenship/Behavior Policy

If you succeed in following the classroom rules and procedures, you will be rewarded and the class as a whole will function smoothly and properly. If, however, you are found in violation of these rules, the following steps will be taken:

- 1) Warning and loss of participation points
- 2) Private talk with me
- 3) Call home to parents
- 4) Referral to administration

It is critical for each student to contribute a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Therefore, when we all respect the learning of our classmates, we all have the potential to succeed and achieve our learning goals.

Attendance Policy

Absences: You are expected to be in class every day. However, I realize that there are reasons that require you to miss class. It is your responsibility to check the assignment board and then see me to receive the information you missed. Any work missed is due by the next class period. I am more than willing to work with you for these special circumstances.

Late Work: You need to take the initiative to turn work in on time. All late work is due 2 weeks before the end of the term.

Again, if there are any special circumstances or problems that arise, please let me know so other arrangements can be made. I am more than willing to work with you on an individual basis.

Grading Policy

You earn your grade. Grades are decided from the following scores:

- A. Portfolio/Notebook: Bellringers, notes, journal entries, etc.
- B. Assignments/Homework/News Articles
- C. Quizzes/Current Events
- D. Tests
- E. Attendance (up to 20%)

A 94-100%	B+ 86-88.9%	C+ 76-78.9%	D+ 66-68.9%	F 58↓
A- 89-93.9%	B 83-85.9%	C 73-75.9%	D 63-65.9%	
	B- 79-82.9%	C- 69-72.9%	D- 59-62.9%	

Extra Credit

Extra credit will only be allowed for those students who have handed in *all other assignments* and will be assigned by me at the end of the term.

Overall, I am excited to study this course with you in a fun and positive classroom environment. I believe that you are responsible young adults and, as a result, will treat you with the respect that you deserve and I hope to receive it as well. I am always willing to address concerns from you and your parents. It is my experience as a teacher that through cooperation and communication from students and parents we can together make this a successful year. Finally, please remember that it is my goal to help you achieve your potential and succeed in my class.

Please sign and detach the following by the second day of class.

_____ (print student's name)

I have read and understand the policies and procedures of this class.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Student	Date	Signature of parent	Date