

Instructor: Mr. Spears

Phone: 480-883-5000

Parent Online Access

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Tutoring Availability: Monday's & Tuesday's 6:30AM to 7:00AM Room M-10

Course Description:

To help students develop the knowledge, skills, and ideals they need to protect their own freedoms; to keep democracy alive in the United States. To understand how representative democracy works and why at times it struggles. Ultimately, the goal is to enlighten the students and to build the necessary skills to enable them to make sound judgments about public policy and for actively taking part in America's representative government. Also, to embrace Hamilton's rich **TRADITION**, promote **INTEGRITY**, and **EXCELLENCE** in all school endeavors (TIE).

Diversity Statement:

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

Required:

- Textbook: We the People (paperback), a book will be checked out to use at home and a classroom set will be available to use at school. Textbooks are checked in as an assignment prior to taking final exam. The return of the textbook or payment for lost book is required (replacement cost is \$40).
- Notebook (3-Ring Binder): An organized system of taking and organizing notes.
- 3X5 notecards are HIGHLY SUGGESTED as a means to organize and study important people, vocab terms, principles & powers of the Constitution, Supreme Court case law, etc.
- Teacher-created guided notes for each lesson are provided on the instructor's website. Using the teacher-created notes is highly suggested, but optional. When these notes are collected as classwork/homework the teacher will provide printed copies for use.
- Students are responsible for all materials presented in class, including announcements about changes in our schedule (network with classmates and USING THE SCHOOL WIRES WEBSITE IS REQUIRED TO ACCESS NOTES, HANDOUTS, WEBSITE LINKS, CALENDAR, INFINITE CAMPUS ETC..

Food, Gum, Drinks:

- No gum is permitted in the building. No food or drinks (except water) are permitted outside of the cafeteria (unless per a **special circumstance**). Profanity is NOT aloud!



Attendance:

- Students are responsible for all materials presented in class. Exams, quizzes, and homework very often include questions on material presented in class, so performance on these indirectly reflects attendance and participation, and consequently will affect your grade.
- Tardiness/absences affect performance. Daily warm-ups/Citizenship are participatory activities and are valued at 1 point minimum...you must be physically in the classroom **READY TO BEGIN** when the bell rings (Sleeping on the job, cell phone violation, inappropriate behavior and any such behavior considered unacceptable will result in forfeiture of 1 point minimum for first offense and increasing as the teacher deems reasonable due to student recidivism. After 10 absences you may be dropped.
- Your exit strategy to leave during CONFERENCE PERIOD (or any other time) is to have SECURED A PASS FROM WHOMEVER IT IS YOU ARE GOING TO SEE...NOT FROM ME...the answer is NO! This is school administrative policy.



Evaluation: **YOUR SEMESTER GRADE IS CUMULATIVE**

- Tests: There will be 8 tests used for assessing mastery of the course material (5 Textbook Unit Tests, 1 U.S. Constitution Test, a 100 question Civics Test (optional with grade only used if it improves overall student grade), and 1 Teacher-made Final Test).
- Homework:
 1. Print out and bring to class notes the teacher-made guided notes available on the HHS website (optional), review and study daily the material covered in class.
 2. When an assignment is collected it must be turned in when due and according to the assignment instructions (i.e. typed, on printed form, etc.) for any credit to be earned.
 3. Have a plan to deal with intangibles (printer out of ink, printer broke, etc, etc, etc), network with classmates to deal with and overcome “emergencies”.
- Daily Assessments/Vocab/Terms Quizzes: There will be periodic assessments to evaluate mastery of that day’s material...**SCORES ARE ONLY IMPUTED INTO INFINITE CAMPUS IF PRESENT AND QUIZ IS TAKEN.**...there are no make-up quizzes for excused absences and missing the quiz will not count as a missed grade...HOWEVER, quizzes are intended to help students prepare for the unit tests. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RECEIVE A ZERO PER DISTRICT POLICY.**
- ANY EXCUSED LATE MATERIAL has a final due date of the following class period as per Hamilton Handbook and after that will not be accepted (take responsibility for yourself). **A parent or legal guardian must call the attendance office at 883-5003 within 24 hours of the absence to officially excuse students from school or particular periods of classes during the day.**
- Missed assignments/tests as a result of UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/DITCHING may not be made up. See school policy for parents calling in absences.

Grading:

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F below 59.5%

Points Breakdown:

Participation/Citizenship 75
Daily Assessments/Quizzes/Misc 225
Unit Tests 400
100 Ques. Civics Test 100

Total 800 Pts = 80%
50 Ques. Final 100 Pts = 20%

YOUR SEMESTER GRADE IS CUMULATIVE 80% All coursework scores including unit exams + 20% which is the final exam...use Infinite Campus to track your progress.

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Thoughts:

Tradition...Integrity...Excellence (TIE)

Leaders + Culture + Behavior = RESULTS

Think-Act-Interact = CULTURE

The ability to influence behavior = _____

Trust the Process

Welcome to U.S./AZ Government