



PERRY HIGH SCHOOL

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

DR. ARTHUR ORNELAS (DR. O)

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classroom: C-221

COURSE OVERVIEW:

We the peopleare going Constitutional. This course will examine the fundamentals of government on national, state and local levels. This includes the three branches of government, rights & responsibilities of American citizenship, and the role of political parties in our system. Also, we will examine the U.S. Constitution, Constitutional Amendments, U.S. Supreme Court cases and the U.S. legal system. In addition, this course prepares students for the academic rigors of higher education and the working world. Students will need an open mind, respect for themselves, classmates, the instructor, and their surroundings. This class will be quite beneficial in understanding of how our country works. Students who gain the most are the ones who put forth the maximum effort to see how what we learn applies directly to their own lives.

Throughout the semester, we will conduct class using a variety of methods: lecture/discussion, simulations, cooperative learning activities and independent research. Students need to become familiar with current events through the use of online and cable broadcasts news outlets. A variety of news video clips will be shown throughout the course. Students are expected to follow the daily news and will submit formal current events assignments every week. Students will also have notebook checks every 2-4 weeks.

The course meets all Arizona State Standards for a high school government course and fulfills the graduation requirements of the Chandler Unified School District. *All information contained in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.*

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Students will be assessed through the use of class assignments, KBATS, quizzes, unit tests, discussions, activities, and projects.
2. Length of assignments will vary daily, but students should expect some type of homework on a regular basis.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

1. Show up to class on-time and prepared each day. This means all homework is done, assignments are read, and the proper materials brought to class.
2. Engage in class discussions, which are meant to stimulate ideas, foster intellectual growth and provide confidence to all students involved. No shutting down.
3. Turn off your phone and put it in your backpack upon entering class. There will be occasions to use them for learning only. I'll let you know when.
4. **Required supplies.** Loose-leaf paper, pencils, ballpoint pen (blue or black ink).
5. All assignments will be typed **or** completed in BLUE or BLACK ink only. ~~Pencil and/or colored ink will not be accepted.~~ All Current Events and projects must be typed.
6. For a restroom break, you will need to sign out, but not during instruction, presentations or activities; only during seatwork.
7. Every rule in the Perry handbook regarding plagiarism, cheating, food, hats, dress code, language, and conduct is enforced in this class.

CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS:

All government systems are laden with the righteous & the unrighteous; the mundane & the tantalizing; persecutions & liberties; politics & religion. The content of this class deals with current real-world, controversial issues. ***It is vital that everyone is respectful of each other's opinions, backgrounds, beliefs***

and world views. There will be a lot of agreement and disagreement on topics. Listening is essential to communicating. Everyone is to be valued and respected.

GRADING SCALE, ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP WORK:

Consistent attendance is vital for success. Your semester grade consists of class assignments, projects, homework, quizzes, and tests. Per the Social Studies Dept policy grades are quantified and scaled:

Semester grade = 40% (Quarter 1) + 40% (Quarter 2) + 20% (Final Exam)

100%-89.5%=A 89.4%-79.5%= B 79.4%-69.5% = C 69.4%-59.5%= D Below 59.4% =F

Excused absences. You will have the same amount of days as your absence to complete assignments. If you are absent from a quiz or unit test, you are responsible for making it up within one week of the assessment or it will be recorded as a zero. It is 100% your responsibility to check the website and/or ask Dr. O or your classmates what you missed.

Late policy. Assignments submitted 1-day late, can earn 70%. After that, it zeros out in the gradebook. If you are absent from a quiz or test, you are responsible for arranging a make-up *within one week* of the assessment. If not, it will zero out in the gradebook.

Field trips and sports. Plan around them. I know your coaches, and I know you know your game schedules. Field trips are also planned weeks in advance.

Life gets difficult. Please tell me in advance when you cannot get computer access at home, are struggling in classes, incur health problems, or become overly stressed out. We will find solutions *before* things get unmanageable. There's a difference between excuses and legitimate difficulties. I'm on your side.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The purpose of a school is to provide all students with an opportunity to learn in a safe and orderly environment. This environment is established by providing students with clear explanations of expected behavior. The following are the expectations for students enrolled in American Government at Perry High School.

1. All cell phones or other electronic devices will be turned off and stowed away while in class, unless otherwise directed. If you are caught on your phone, it will be confiscated and returned to you at the **end of that period**. Perry High School and its staff (administration, teachers) are not responsible for any damaged, missing or stolen cell phones or other student property. Any inappropriate use of cell phones, including but not limited to inappropriate photographs, text messages, recording/ videotaping will also result in confiscation of the phone and further disciplinary action.
2. Food and drinks (soda, Gatorade, ice tea, etc.) are NOT ALLOWED in the classroom. Only bottled water is allowed in any classroom or academic building on the Perry campus.
3. Hats, hoods or any other head covering are NOT ALLOWED in the classroom or academic buildings on the Perry campus. Repeat offenders will have their item confiscated and are subject to administrative disciplinary action.
4. Students are to respect the rights of their peers and instructor while in class. Disrupting others, talking during class lectures, quizzes, tests, etc. will not be tolerated.
5. Students will be allowed to leave class on at a time and use the restroom provided they have a HALL PASS. No exceptions will be made. Every effort will be made to keep this to a minimum.

Tentative Unit & Exam Schedule (Subject to Change):

Unit 1: July 23rd to Aug 23rd; KBAT #1 and Exam Aug 23rd

Unit 2: ~Aug 26th to Sep 20th; KBAT #2 and Exam #2 Sep 20th

Unit 3: ~Sep 23rd to Nov 1st; KBAT #3 and Exam #3 Nov 1st

Unit 4: ~Nov 4th to Nov 22nd; KBAT #4 and Exam #4 Nov 21st/22nd

Unit 5: ~Dec 2nd to Dec 13th; KBAT #5 Dec 13th

Final Exam Review: Dec 16th and 17th; Final Exam: Dec 18th and 19th

GOVERNMENT CLASS CONTRACT

Please return this page of the syllabus by Friday of the first week of school.

COPYRIGHT, ACADEMIC HONESTY & PLAGIARISM:

Students expected to cite material where appropriate. Your homework and/or projects must be COMPLETELY original. Plagiarism will result in a "0" on the assignment, parent contact, and administrative discipline. Academic dishonesty can be described as, but not limited to:

- Copying another's work with or without permission.
- Giving your work to someone else to pass as her/her own.
- Working in a group unless explicitly told to do so.
- Using "crib notes" on tests, quizzes or other assessments.
- Securing answers for tests from others who have already taken a test. This includes passing information along to a future test-takers.
- Using notes or a book when they have not been permitted.
- Passing off another's work as your own to any capacity.

____ I entirely read and understand Dr. Ornelas' syllabus for American Government.

____ I understand the academic commitment and expectations for my behavior in class.

STUDENT

Student printed name: _____ ID #: _____

Student Signature _____

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____ I am aware of the academic honesty and plagiarism policy expected of my son/daughter.

____ I am aware of the potential videos/movies that may possibly be viewed in class (see back).

PARENT

Parent PRINTED name _____

Parent Signature _____

Dear Parents,

The following is a stock (not comprehensive) list of videos that may be shown- in full or segments- during the school year. Please keep in mind that this is a college course and material can be controversial/sensitive. If you have concerns about any of these, please contact me. I will give an alternate assignment to your student to fulfill that requirement.

e-mail: ornelas.arthur@cusd80.com

phone #: 480-224-2891

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| _____ Gideon's Trumpet (not rated) | _____ West Wing (TV-14) |
| _____ Crash Course US Government (not rated) | _____ Swing Vote (PG-13) |
| _____ Twelve Angry Men (TV-PG) | _____ Dave (PG-13) |
| _____ Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (not rated) | _____ A More Perfect Union (not rated) |
| _____ The American President (PG-13) | _____ Lincoln (PG-13) |
| _____ School House Rocks (not rated) | _____ John Stossel video clips (not rated) |
| _____ PBS Eyes on the Prize (not rated) | _____ PBS Frontline (not rated) |
| _____ Gerrymandering videos (not rated) | _____ Select comedy clips (not rated) |
| _____ The People & Power Game 1996 (not rated) | _____ CBS 60 Minutes (not rated) |
| _____ The Rainmaker (PG-13) | _____ The War Room (Universal) 1994 (PG) |
| _____ Eyes on the Prize I & II PBS 1987 (not rated) | |
| _____ Liberty! The American Revolution:
Are We to be a Nation? PBS 1997 (not rated) | _____ TED Talks (not rated) |
| _____ National Geographic Solitary Confinement (not rated) | |
| _____ News clips from various news stations (not rated) | |