

AP U.S. Government and Politics
Disclosure Document, 2008-09 Mr. Olson, Rm 701

Name: _____

Period: _____

Course Description:

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics is an in-depth look at the American political system. The primary purpose of this course is to prepare you for the Exam which takes place in May. However, it is also the purpose of the course to enlighten your thinking in regards to government and related issues so that you may become a thoughtful and productive citizen.

There is good deal more reading and information to be processed in an A.P. class than in regular courses. Consequently, your level of motivation and performance is expected to be exceptional. It is also assumed that you possess a certain level of academic and organizational skill. This course is essentially a college level course that can give you college credit.

It is expected that you will take the exam in May. Taking the exam will be tied to your 4th term grade, so it is important that we have an understanding in regards to this expectation. Again, you are expected to take the exam unless specific arraignments are made with myself.

THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT & CITIZENSHIP CREDIT may also be earned with completion of the second semester of the course (only the **SECOND** semester counts for this credit).

In our course of study we will investigate such topics as theories of government, the Constitution, political parties and ideologies, Interest groups, and the branches of government. Concurrent with our study of American government we will stay abreast of domestic political issues and some international current events.

Materials / Sources:

American Government, Wilson (main text)

Fast Track to a 5, Preparing for the AP Test (supplement to Wilson)

(** Due to the fact that the Fast Track booklet is paper back, the book must be purchased for \$20 payable to the financial office. Demonstrating use of this supplemental book for each semester will be rewarded with extra credit)

Outside sources: TBA

Course Objectives:

- 1) *Relate the basic facts and ideas of the American Political system.*
- 2) *Be able form sound opinions dealing with issues in American government.*
- 3) *Gain an appreciation for our nation and its government, and develop the attitude and knowledge that make good productive citizens.*
- 4) *Solid preparation for the AP examination.*

Course Requirements:

Attendance

Attendance is essential in an A.P. class. You will not likely pass with out good attendance. If for some reason this becomes a problem you will be asked to transfer. Otherwise the school-wide attendance policy will be closely followed. (For a copy go to the school web site at Timpanogos.alpinedistrict.org)

Folder

You must have a lose leaf folder specifically for this class. You will want to keep class notes, returned assignments, handout and other important papers in this folder. These will be checked periodically for a grade.

Homework/ Late work

You will have some kind of homework assigned for each class period. Homework will be due the next time unless a specific date is given. Late work will be accepted up to day of the exam for that unit, but points will be taken off (usually you will get half credit). If you cannot complete homework because of serious illness your parents should contact the school or me personally.

Deadlines for late work will be strict. Only extreme circumstances will change this. Deadlines will be posted in the classroom.

Exams

Your exams will cover the information you get from the teacher (notes), reading from the text, and any outside reading you may be assigned. Your exams will be graded and turned back to you by

the next class period. **If you miss an exam in class, it must be made up within two class periods after the day it is given in class.**

Grading Policy

We take seriously the admonition that students should achieve mastery of the subject and feel that a "D" does not demonstrate this mastery. HENCE, NO "D" GRADES ARE GIVEN. Students must achieve a 70% to pass the course. A 69% is failing.

However, any student who receives a 60-69% one quarter and then shows improvement with an 85% or higher the next quarter will receive a passing grade for the previous quarter in which the failing grade was received.

The grading scaled is as follows:

100%-94% = A, 93-90% = A-, 89-84% = B, 83-80% = B-, 79-74% = C, 73-70% = C-, 69-0% = F

Integrity

You will be expected to demonstrate integrity. Cheating is just not acceptable. Please not, **you may not share work on assignments unless given specific permission.** Never lend your assignment out to be copied. The student who lends their assignment will get a zero, as well as the person copying the work!!

Rules & Expectations:

I will expect you to come to class prepared. You should bring your text to class everyday unless otherwise announced. Assignments should be done neatly. Make your handwriting neat and as legible as possible. If I can't read your work, I'll ask you to do it over again or you will get a point reduction.

Your general behavior in class should follow one simple principle... respect. You need to respect myself as the teacher, other students, and school property. When I am talking or other students are making comments you are expected to pay attention. In return you will get the same respect. Leaving class without permission is a big no, no. Remain at your desk until the bell rings. Also, the dress code will be enforced.

Finally, if you have any problems or questions please come and talk to me before school in the morning, or right after class.

Makeup Policy:

It is important that you understand the make up policy for the class. The following

No makeup work is allowed for unexcused absences

You have the responsibility to check what work was missed on the day of an absence. You will be required to turn in assignments or take quizzes on the day you return, unless you have been specifically excused by the teacher. Use the **Log Book** on the assignments table to find out what was missed.

You are allowed to turn in late work for PARTIAL CREDIT, but the work must be turned in no later than the day of the exam for that unit. Once the exam is given, absolutely no work will be accepted.

Additionally, if you are present when the assignment is given but absent the day it is due, it will be marked as late unless specific arrangements are made with the teacher. If at all possible, find a way to get the assignment to class.

All makeup quizzes and tests will be taken in the testing center. You must have your student ID. The testing center is open from 2:30-4:00 Wednesday & Thursday.

YOU MUST COMPLETE THE MAKEUP QUIZZES AND TESTS WITHIN ONE WEEK OR NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN.

To be fair and objective with all students, makeup quizzes and exams will be somewhat more difficult and no bonus or extra credit questions will be given.

Parents and Students, **PLEASE SIGN** the cover sheet...

(Students, keep this disclosure document in your folders and turn in the signed cover sheet for 10 points)

Timpanogos High School
AP U.S. Government and Politics,
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Mr. Olson

I have read and acknowledge the policies and
rules for this class:

Student (print) _____

Student _____ Date _____

Please include your email: _____

Parent(s) _____ Date _____