

Government & Citizenship, Disclosure Document 2008-09
Mr. Olson, Rm 701

Name: _____ Period: _____

Course Description:

Government & Citizenship is the study of the American political system. We will study subjects such as theories of government, the Constitution, political ideologies, the electoral system, the major institutions of government, and national defense. Also, we will keep abreast of important political issues and current events.

Course Objectives:

1. *Relate the basic facts and ideas of the American Political system and be able form sound opinions dealing with issues in American government.*
2. *Gain an appreciation for our nation and its government, and develop the attitude and knowledge that make good citizens.*
3. *Develop study skills; Effective reading, clear writing, Exam taking skills, and good study habits.*

Course Requirements:

Attendance

Attendance is crucial, you cannot succeed without consistent attendance. Since the school-wide attendance policy will be followed all absences will need to be excused through the office within one week or a NC (no credit) will be given for the class (The attendance policy can be viewed on the Timpanogos main web page at Timpanogos.alpinedistrict.org or obtain a copy from the assignments table). Truancy (skipping class for no good reason) is unacceptable and work cannot be made up. However, as a reward, if you are very close to 100% attendance and are 1% off the next grade level, I will bump your grade up to next level: for instance a 93%(A-) to a 94%(A). Additionally, in order to qualify for this grade bump you must have: (1) all assignments turned in (In other words, no zeros), and (2) have taken advantage of any extra credit opportunities offered in the term.

Participation

All students are expected to participate. This means coming to class, of course, but also following instructions and working hard in class. Class time must be used appropriately. Each student starts the quarter with 50 points (about the point equivalent of an average test) for participation. Students will subsequently get marked down for nonparticipation. This includes such things as not bringing text books to class, not working in teams effectively, not getting in-class assignments done, etc.

Folder

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

USB Flash Drive: It is recommended that students acquire a flash drive to store computer files. This will allow you to work in school and at home.

Homework/ Late work

You will have some kind of homework assigned most periods. Doing your homework consistently and in a timely manner may be the single most important factor for your success. Makeup policy for assignments, quizzes, and tests is explained below.

Exams / Quizzes

Exams are the single most important type of score you get in the course. The key to success is preparation. Almost all reading blocs will have a quiz and each unit will have an exam.

Internet Access

It is essential that you get internet access here at the school. Some assignments can't be done with out it. Find time to go into the media center to get this done.

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 term and then shows improvement with an 85% or higher the next quarter will receive a passing grade for the previous term.

Grade Scale

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

Rules / General Expectations:

- ↳ Come to class prepared (folder with paper, text, pen). Be respectful in class. Pay attention when teacher is talking or another student is making a comment
- ↳ **Cell phones, ipods, headphones, and other electronic devices are ABSOLUTELY not allowed in class and must stay in your book bag. Any electronic devices outside of your book bag will result in the confiscation of said device and given to an administrator and can then only be picked by your parents.**
- ↳ A Dress code will be enforced (Any unnatural piercing, hair styles or colors, clothing with obscenity, drug symbols, or suggestive styles will **NOT** be allowed)
- ↳ Never leave class without permission, remain at your desk until the bell rings.
- ↳ **Never copy work. You may share information only when given specific permission** (Copying will result in no credit for both students)

Makeup Policy:

- No makeup work is allowed for un-excused absences
- You have the responsibility to check what work was missed the day immediately following your 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 happened in class the day you missed.
- You are allowed to turn in late work for PARTIAL CREDIT (50%), 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 excepted.
- Additionally, if you are present when the assignment is given but absent the day it is due, it will be marked as late unless specifically arranged with the teacher. In other words, find a way to get the assignment to class or get excused by the teacher.
- **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE MAKEUP QUIZZES AND TESTS WITHIN ONE WEEK OR NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN. Makeup is in the classroom (701) every MONDAY after school.**
- 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.

Note to Seniors:

I do not offer individual extra credit. This is important to you because it means that I do not give assignments specifically for the purpose of passing and therefore graduating. I want grades to reflect your work and your knowledge of the subject in an objective manner. Also, I will adhere to the make up and grading policy as stated above, so you need to understand the consequences of not completing your work on time or of failing to study the course material. Occasionally, some students are forced to deal with unusual challenges in their lives. Communicate these circumstances to me in timely manner so we can work out a solution, otherwise I cannot make any exceptions for the make up and grading policy.

Note to Parents:

Please take special note of the electronic devices policy and the makeup policy. These rules are very important to maintain a high academic standard and to help your student succeed in class. Also, please verify the email address written on the cover sheet of this document as the best e-mail address to reach you.

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
Government & Citizenship
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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 _____