

American Government
US Government AP and/or Government 2305
Fall/Spring 2018-2019
Richland College/North Garland High School
Instructor: Robert Canuto Rodríguez
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TUTORIALS:

Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45-3:45 (I am around any day before and after school and do not mind students just popping in for tutorials or if they just need a place to study). . .subject to change.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

US Government Advanced Placement/Government 2305: American Government (3 credits)
(This is a Texas Common Course Number)

- This course is a collegiate introduction to the study and field of political science.
- Topics include, but not limited to: The development of our constitutional system, federalism, elections, judicial processes, civil rights, suffrage, political behavior (s), ideologies and dogma, political movements and the role of power.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

- American Democracy Now-Texas Edition by Brigid Callahan, Jean Harris, Gary Halter and Susan J. Tolchin. . .online edition (password and username to be provided)
- Supplemental readings as per instructor (me)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Demonstrative knowledge of basic principles of American and Texas government and an understanding of the operations of the American political system.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the interactions between and among the various political entities and stockholders of our constitutional system.
- To understand and deconstruct the manifestation of historical, social, political, economic and cultural forces in American politics.
- To understand, apply and deconstruct the nexus between various historical antecedents and the modern political reality.
- To appreciate and internalize a sense of civic pride, responsibility and the role and power of the individual in our society.

COURSE TOPICS:

Topics to be covered include, but not limited to the following:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• American constitutional system• Civil liberties• Suffrage• Civil rights• Political parties• The electoral process• Congress | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Presidency• The judicial system• Political antagonism• The role of civil society• Awareness and empathy• Public policy• Many others |
|---|---|

RULES, PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS:

As this is a college course primarily and a high school course secondarily, I will approach the students as such. Expectations are high and non-negotiable. Among the following:

- Grading and grouping guidelines allow a student to turn in late work with the loss of 10 pts per day up to 30 points. It is a zero after the 3rd day.
- Work not turned in due to unexcused tardies are considered late and thus subject to the penalty.
- All will show respect and empathy, particularly as this involves conversations about worldviews, value systems, historical events, etc.
- Grading is as per explained below.
- Students are expected to have read the chapter before coming to class.
- Attendance rules apply as per GISD and DCCCD guidelines.

GRADING (DCCCD):

Grading scale is as follows:

A= 90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=Below 60

Classwork: 40%

Folder Checks: 10%

Quizzes: 25%

Tests: 25%

MISC. ITEMS

- All in the dual credit class will take the final exam as per DCCCD rules.
- As per DCCCD rules, plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be handled accordingly. Evidence of such will earn the student a zero on the assignment.
- Pursuant of TAC Chapter 113, Subchapter D, §113.70, content will meet and exceed the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for U.S. Government.
- If a student withdraws from the class, it is incumbent upon them to notify DCCCD. Otherwise, an "F" is placed on the college transcript.
- Students understand there will be a lot of writing both online and in print in this class. Teacher will make use of turn it in. Late submissions of required work will be penalized 30%.
- Writing in this class is of an expository nature. That is to say that essays are personalized, subjective and of an editorial nature. Heavy research or citations are not required, but citations are needed if others' works are referenced.
- Some movie (s) and/or movie clip (s) might be utilized. Out of class assignments might/could be based on viewing such a movie at home. See attachment.

PHONE POLICY

Students must keep their phones and GISD provided IPAD away unless told to have them out. Some games and research will involve the use of student provided hand held devices, phones, tablets etc. Students are expected to adhere to the district's acceptable use policy.

American Government
 US Government AP/APDC
 Spring 2018-2019 Schedule (tentative & subject to change)

A Days	
Date	Chapters
August	
20	Intro
22	1
24	1
28	6
30	6
September	
5	5
7	7
11	11
13	13
17	17
19	19
21	21
25	25
27	27
October	
1	16
3	16
5	13
9	13
16	14
18	14
22	14
24	14
26	18
30	18
November	
1	18
5	15
7	15
9	4
13	4
15	5
26	5
28	7
30	7
December	
4	8
6	9
10	10
12	Book Review Presentations
14	Final Exam
18	Activities, No
20	Exemptions

Always remember the wisdom of Joseph Campbell: “The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.”