

American Government

Mr. Schulte

2022-2023

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Government is the study of power and the relationship between those in an authoritative position and their citizens. It is the fundamental belief system of laws that our country is based upon. This class is designed to enhance, stimulate, and encourage the growth of your knowledge of what it means to be a citizen as well as to better grasp how our system of government functions. Government, unless you are an anarchist, is a necessary part of life, and we must learn as citizens how to utilize our power to keep our society functioning properly.

I encourage and hope that you all will do more in this class than skim the book for notes and stare at the clock. I hope you will THINK, QUESTION, AND DEBATE every situation, issue, and topic at hand. I cannot be expected to make this class work on my own. Therefore, you all must take part in this democracy that includes constant, open dialogue between me the teacher and you the student. Ultimately, you will take on the everyday role of decision makers tasked with trying to resolve current policy issues.

This class is not intended to be a homework factory, it is intended to help you become an active, well-informed citizen.

Required ITEMS:

- **Note taking material every day!**
 - You are expected to take notes every day in class. You should be prepared to take notes during my lectures (with or without a PowerPoint), class discussion, and group work.
 - **I would recommend a three-ring binder (you will need to keep track of handouts) or a notebook specifically for Gov't class.**
- Ability to access Teams will be vital as I will be including certain items in Teams

COURSE CONTENT

Semester 1

- Introduction – Types of Government
- Foundations of American Government
- The Constitution
- Elections (The War Room)
- Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

Semester 2

- Federalism
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch
- Legislative Branch

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Be Responsible
 - a. Sit in assigned seat in class when the bell rings
 - b. Have all materials ready to go

- c. Keep a binder of notes, handouts, and work returned for the entire year
 - d. Utilize TEAMS- for materials, upcoming due dates, and what you missed when absent
 - e. Be prepared to not use your electronic device unless directed by me
2. Be Involved
- a. You will get so much more out of class if you participate
 - b. Do your homework – I do not assign a tremendous amount but when I do it's important and it needs to be completed.
 - c. TRY
 - d. Ask questions!!!
 - e. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING MATERIALS AND HOMEWORK WHEN YOU ARE ABSENT!
3. Be Respectful
- a. You do not have the right to interfere in your classmates' education
 - b. You have a right to your opinion, but it must be conveyed in a thoughtful manner!!
 - c. Listen to understand not to respond!
 - d. Maintain personal space.
 - e. Communicate with me if you are having a conflict with someone in the class, including me.
 - f. Don't use your phones!
4. Be a Graduate
- a. Take pride in your work.
 - b. Set a goal and go for it.
 - c. I have zero tolerance for CHEATING...

If you cannot meet classroom expectations or follow directions, you will first receive a warning. If you continue to make poor choices, a written referral will be sent to your principal. I want every student to reach their maximum potential in my class and will not tolerate poor behavior that infringes on other people's right to learn.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grading Scale: All grades are based on total points for the quarter. Quarter grades are worth 40% of your total score and semester finals are worth 20%. Grades will be based on the traditional grading scale.

1. There will be daily, weekly, and quarterly work both in class and at home. Daily assignments range from 10 points to 25 points, tests are 40-50 points, and projects/papers are worth 40-50 points.
2. Classroom participation is expected and will be graded, especially in debates, group work, discussion and lectures.
3. Be prepared to have your peers review your work.

LATE WORK

1. **Late work will be accepted up to 3 days from the due date. Tests must be made up within one week after an absence.**
2. Please communicate with me if you are going to be gone and remember that you are responsible for make-up work.

Films

Please note that PG-13 or R-rated films are used for educational purposes. I will use my discretion on the content, and fast forward through scenes I feel are inappropriate. Please notify me if you would like your child to be removed from watching any of the following films. *The Most Hated Family in America, The Thin Blue Line, Lincoln, John Adams, The War Room.*

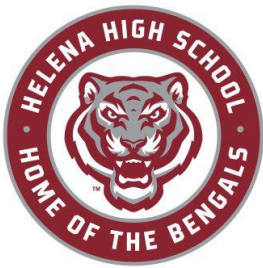
CONTACT INFORMATION

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[*Syllabus is subject to change.](#)