**American Government**

**BE RESPONSIBLE, BE INVOLVED, BE RESPECTFUL, BE A GRADUATE!**

**Instructure:** Mr. Peter Schommer

**Room** 25

**Contact School Email:** [pschommer@helenaschools.org](mailto:pschommer@helenaschools.org)

**School Phone:** +1-406-324-2272

**My Schedule:**

**Period 0: Prep** 7:25-8:15 a.m.

**Period 1: World Cultures** 8:20-9:10 a.m.

**Period 2: Prep** 9:15-10:05 a.m.

**Nutrition Break:**

**Period 3: World Cultures** 10:15-11:05 a.m.

**Period 4: World Cultures** 11:10 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

**Lunch:** 12:00-12:35 p.m.

**Period 5: American Government** 12:40-1:30 p.m.

**Period 6: American Government** 1:35-2:25 p.m.

**Period 7: Prep** 2:30-3:20 p.m.

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**Grading Scale:**

100% - 94% - A

93% - 90% - A-

89% - 87% - B+

86% - 83% - B

82% - 80% - B-

79% - 77% - C+

76% - 73% - C

72% - 70% - C-

69% - 67% - D+

66% - 63% - D

62% - 60% - D-

59% - 0% - F

**Grading Criteria**

You will be graded on the following categories (Grades will be 40% 1st Qtr, 40% 2nd Qtr, 20% Final). Grades will be up to date every Tuesday on PowerSchool.

● Tests/Quizzes - all sizes and types, keep up in class and you will be fine

● Writing Assignments - there will be more than one, some will be big, prepare yourself

● Daily work and Participation - this is working in class, group work, effort, and

● Projects- large projects are broken into pieces (e.g. research, outline, presentation, etc.)

● Semester Cumulative exam (20%)

**Description**

“Senior American Government examines the history of our nation’s democratic system, the fundamentals of citizenship, and the working of local, state and national government. Advanced Placement, regular, and applied levels are offered.” -HHS Website

**The Instructor’s Commitment to you…**

1. I promise to provide a positive learning environment
2. I promise to do everything within my power to help you succeed
3. I promise to respect you.
4. I promise to get grades back to you within a week.
5. I promise to answer any questions you have regarding the curriculum, even if it means doing extra research after class.
6. I promise to try my hardest to give you the best educational experience.

**The Student’s Commitment to the class…**

1. I promise to respect the instructor and classmates.
2. I promise to have growth mindset and will not be afraid to learn from mistakes.
3. I promise to come to class prepared every day.
4. I promise to stay engaged throughout the class and actively participate.
5. I promise to ask questions when confused or need guidance on an assignment.
6. I promise to take pride and hand in my own creative ideas.

**Cell Phone Use**

It is expected that you will not be using your cell phone during class unless the instructor says otherwise. Cell phones can prohibit the student from staying engaged with the classroom material.

* 1st time instructor notices a student using their phone = a verbal warning
* 2nd time the instructor notices a student using their phone = taking the phone away for the rest of the class
* 3rd time the instructor notices a student using their phone = student will be sent to the office with their phone where the administrator will confiscate the phone for the remainder of the day and parents will be notified.

**Topics that will be covered:**

Semester One:

* Unit 1- Introduction: Types of Governments
* Unit 2- Foundations of American Government
* Unit 3- The Constitution
* Unit 4- Elections
* Unit 5- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Semester Two:

* Unit 6- Executive Branch
* Unit 7- Judicial Branch
* Unit 8- Legislative Branch

**Absences:**

If you have a pre-arranged absence, please go to the office to gain a Trip Slip. This way myself and the office will know ahead of time that you will be absent.

1. Students have 3 days to make up work from an excused absence
2. Students may not make up work with an unexcused absence.
3. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Whenever possible arrangements for make-up work should be made with the teacher prior to the absence.

**Tardies:**

A tarty is classified as being late for class by five minutes or less. If you are going to be late because your other class went long, then get a pass. If you are going to be late coming from lunch or the bus, then notify a classmate or get a late pass from the office.

* After 3 tardies (per semester), you will receive lunch detention with me.
* After 4 tardies I will automatically write a referral. It does not matter why you were tardy! For further tardy policy information please refer to the student handbook.

**Late Work:**

The best thing you can do if you need more time on an assignment is COMMUNICATE!

I understand that life can be tough and busy sometimes, but time management is a very important quality to gain for life and it is expected that you turn in all your assignments on time. If something pops up in your life and you need more time, please communicate with me the situation and we will figure out a new due date if needed. The punishment for late work will be harsher as the significance of the assignment grows. I will place zeroes in the gradebook for all late work until you turn it in.

**Extra Help:**

If you feel like you need extra help in the course or have any questions about the curriculum, please reach out to me before/after class or by email ([pschommer@helenaschools.org](mailto:pschommer@helenaschools.org)). We can find a time during one of my prep periods or during lunch for you to come in to receive help/time to finish assignment/work on late work.

**Food/Drink:**

In the beginning of the school year, I will be tolerable with food and drink. The only thing I ask is that you do not eat or bring in anything with nuts. This is subject to change as both food and drinks have become an issue.

**Student Handbook:**

MAKE SURE YOU READ THE STUDENT HANDBOOK!!!! (<https://41ucju4djrhu40k5hl1v1qbk-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Helena-High-Handbook-2019-2020-.pdf>)