

U.S. Government and Citizenship

Timpview High School

Instructor: Jeff Ward

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this course is to foster informed, responsible participation in public life. Knowing how to be a good citizen is essential to the preservation and improvement of United States democracy. Upon completion of this course the student will understand the major ideas, protections, privileges, structures, and economic systems that affect the life of a citizen in the United States political system. This course is recommended for seniors due to their proximity to voting and draft age.

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion."

Thomas Jefferson (1820)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. EXAMS: You will be required to take a test after the completion of each chapter or chapters that have been combined into a unit, plus a final examination at the end of the semester. Most of the information on these examinations will be presented in class, so it is VERY IMPORTANT to come to class and participate. The format of each test will vary from unit to unit. If you are absent from class on a test day, you must make it up the following class period. There will be no exceptions.

2. HOMEWORK, CLASSWORK & QUIZZES: I will frequently assign work related to the subject we are covering in class. If you are assigned reading, there will be a quiz at the beginning of the next class period on the assigned material. If we watch a film in class, there will probably be an accompanying hand out.

3. LATE WORK: Work is considered late if it is not turned in the day and class period it is due. Late work will not receive a grade above 75%. Late work will only be accepted up to a week after the due date.

4. CURRENT EVENTS: You will be required to do current events in this class. They must be government related and not deal with death, murder, kidnapping etc. You must show up to class prepared to get credit.

Current events cannot be turned in late.

5. INDIVIDUAL PROJECT: This assignment is designed for you to have fun with. You will select a topic of your choice and then have that topic approved by me. You will have a lot of freedom in choosing your topic, providing you can find adequate information to write a good research paper. You will then be asked to make a short presentation on your topic to the class.

6. PARTICIPATION: I encourage you to attend class each day, to listen, to ask questions, participate in class discussions, and take notes. Please do not hesitate to participate in class because of a difference of opinions, I honestly welcome all points of view on the topics we discuss in class.

7. EXTRA CREDIT: There will be opportunities to do extra credit.

8. ATTENDANCE: Most of the information for the tests will be given in class through lectures or class discussions, so attendance is a vital part of your success in this class. **I will strictly follow Timpview's attendance policy;** so refer to the student handbook to get acquainted with the rules. As far as turning in work, any work not turned in because of an absence due to illness must be turned in upon your return to class. If you know in advance that you will be gone, make arrangements with me to turn your assignments in **BEFORE** you miss class. Any missed notes from class are **YOUR** responsibility to get from another class member.

RULES:

The rules of this class are pretty simple:

1. First, no talking while I am talking. Everyone has pet peeves, and this is mine. By talking out of turn, you are disrupting the class and could be causing yourself and your classmates to miss information you need to pass this class. Besides, it is very rude!!!
2. Second, you must be seated in your seat the entire class period (unless otherwise directed by me) or you will be marked absent. You may not change your seat for any reason without my permission. If you need to be moved, speak to me before or after class.
3. Respect the opinions and ideas of the other members of the class. In order to have a fun and exciting class, we cannot have anyone be afraid to contribute to class discussions. So anyone who makes fun of or demeans anyone else in the class will be removed from the class.
4. I reserve the right to change classroom rules at any time to suit a particular class's situation.
5. **FAILURE to adhere to these rules will result in you being asked to transfer out!!**

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WJEB

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-
- 67-69%=D+
- 63-66%=D
- 60-62%=D-
- 59% down F

*GRADING
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2011/10/12
2011/11/22*

Parents, if there is any information that you think would be beneficial for me to know concerning your child and their academic success please do not hesitate to email me.

Student's
Signature

Parent/ Guardian's
Signature

Student's
Email

Parent/ Guardian's
Email