

American Government Syllabus Miss Lucas

Course Description

In this course, students will examine the Founding Documents, analyze the three Branches of Government and draw current connections between how the American people govern themselves at national, state and local levels of government and how this has changed since the United States of America's formation in 1776.. Students will also look at specific aspects of Ohio governmental legislation, policies and court cases and compare various other governments using current events.

Grades/Grading

Assessments / Quizzes	= 30%
Projects / Essays	= 25%
Homework/Worksheets	= 15%
Interactive Notebook	= 10%
Google Classroom Questions	= 5%
Attendance	= 10%
Student Engagement	= 5%

Note Taking/ Completing Work

We will use a variety of note practices in this class including graphic organizers, gallery walks, and independent textbook notations.

Everything in our class will end up in our **Interactive Notebooks** which we will create together at the start of the school year.

I will offer guided chapter notes for our more in-depth text notations. These will be considered a portion of your homework grades, but I will show you in class how to successfully complete this expectation as well as try to set aside at least 10 minutes of class time to begin and time the following class to ask any questions. This is meant to be a stepping stone towards higher-level note taking and can be daunting at first. Know that I am here as a support along the way! Please advocate for your needs.

Required Materials

composite notebook (no spiral), chromebook, textbook, pencil, colored pen (red, blue, or green preferred), google classroom access
* If discussed the INB can be created using a binder

Units Topics: Main Ideas

Unit 1 Foundations of American Government Chs. 1-4
Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Federalist Papers, and Types of Government, and Checks and Balances...

Unit 2 Political Behavior Chs. 5-9
Suffrage, Political Parties, and Interest Groups...

Unit 3 Ohio Government & Local Governments Chs. 24-25
Analyzing State & Local Government responsibilities and individual participation...

Unit 4 The Legislative Branch Chs. 10-12
Members of Congress, Senate, Expressed/Implied Powers, and Making Laws...

Unit 5 The Executive Branch Chs. 13-17
Roles, Vice Presidency, Campaign, Electoral College, Cabinets, Taxes, Foreign Diplomacy, National Security...

Unit 6 The Judicial Branch Chs. 18-21
Supreme Court, Types of Jurisdiction, Unalienable Rights, Bill of Rights, and Due Process...

Unit 7 Comparing Political and Economic Systems Chs. 22-23
Mercantilism, Feudalism, Independence, Communism, Fascism, Democracy, Capitalism, and Globalization...

How To Reach Me:

mlucas@chavivahighschool.org

- I will answer emails most days until 8pm.
- After that please assume you will receive a response the next morning.
- I will extend this to 9pm the day before Tests
- I will not check my email on weekends unless otherwise discussed in advance.

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Expectations

- 1) Come to class ready to learn and participate.
- 2) Maintain a respectful and positive attitude and behavior about class topics and towards fellow classmates.
- 3) Communicate. If something is upsetting you or making you uncomfortable, please **tell me privately** and we can come up with a way to adapt and meet your needs.
- 4) Even if history isn't your "Best" or "Favorite" subject, push yourself to do the best **YOU** can. Attitude is extremely important to educational growth. **Your education is your job so take it seriously!** :)
- 5) Your Education doesn't begin and end in this classroom. If you need more help, Let me know. We will work through this classes' challenges together!
- 6) Everyone is Entitled to Their Own Opinion and Voice:
Sometimes history can touch on some sensitive subjects. Think about what you are saying and how it contributes **positively** to the conversation before you say it.

Attendance, Homework, Make-up Work, & Extensions

In accordance with Chaviva's attendance policy, if a student is absent, any work that was due is now due the next day of school, not the next class period. If a student misses work, this is their responsibility to find out what they missed.

This means that the student is responsible for being on top of their work even when absent.

After that, the work will receive a 10% deduction for each day late.

Homework is usually listed in google classroom, but as a precaution, students should reach out ideally before they return from school to confirm what work they will need to make up. Students can also reach out via email about general homework questions.

I also know that Life happens. But the only way to determine if an extenuating circumstance is applicable is for the student to be proactive and accountable for their education. Please reach out asap if you have a concern or know you will not be able to complete an assignment by its due date.

If I, as the teacher, believe an extension is warranted, it will be on a student to student basis.

Extensions are not guaranteed and, unless impossible to predict, must be addressed with the teacher no later than 24 hours before the assignment was originally due.

Plagiarism & Cheating

I will always give you the benefit of the doubt. If it was a misunderstanding there will be ONE opportunity to redo the assignment.

I will also use the words plagiarism or cheating, not to scare you but to have a true and honest conversation about actions and consequences.

Also remember that the goal of each assignment is to show me YOUR best work. So if you are choosing to use someone else's words the true person you are disrespecting is yourself.

..... Please cut and fill out the bottom and return by

Student: I have read the syllabus and, as a student, I understand that I am responsible for my education and academic career. I will hold myself accountable for my grade in this course and will ask for help when needed.

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Circle preferred form of contact: Phone / Email

Preferred Contact Information: _____