

Instructor: Andrew Montoya

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Tutoring Available: every morning and during lunch (after school by appointment only)

REQUIRED TEXT: United States Government: *Democracy in Action. 2008 edition (online version)***Course Description**

Welcome to your Blended Principles of Democracy course! The blended nature of this course is an instructional format which utilized, at a minimum, online learning 50% of the instructional time, and traditional instruction the other 50% of the time. This course is structured in such a way to complete the high school degree requirement in New Mexico for one online course credit to receive a high school diploma. In this course students will synthesize and evaluate information and concepts from multiple sources, to create their own understanding of the impact of human decision making within our government. This course combines a study of the structure of national, state, and local U.S. government with an overview of the principles of market economics and citizenship. Course content will also include contemporary U.S. issues. The emphasized purpose of Principles of Democracy is to prepare students to perform effectively within their community as informed citizens.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

- Higher Level Thinking Skills
- Technology Integration
- Professionalism
- Communication Skills (verbal & written)
- Transformative Thinking

Curriculum Outline (Tentative)**August 15th - October 18th:** Introduction to Government and Foundations of American Government**October 19th – December 20th:** The U.S. Constitution and the 3 Branches of U.S. Government**January 9th – March 15th:** Civil Liberties, Civil Rights and Political Parties and Elections**March 16th – May 17th:** Principles of the Free Market and Citizenship**Classroom Rules****SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

1. Flash Drive with sufficient memory capacity (minimum of 1 gigabyte preferred)
2. Blue and/or black pens
3. Spiral Notebook for this class ONLY
4. Access to computer and internet

STUDENT ASSISTANCE: If you are in need of extra help during the semester, I am in my classroom every morning before school as well as during lunch. I will also be available afterschool by appointment only if you need additional assistance and/or computer access.

CHEATING and/or PLAGIARISM: All class work must be your own. The faculty and administration does not approve of cheating or plagiarism in any form. If a student is caught cheating, the student will

receive a zero for the assignment and a parent conference may be held. The student may lose credit and may be removed from class.

Classroom Conduct Policy:

- Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate manners, conduct, and professionalism including but not limited to; (a) punctuality, (b) being prepared for class discussions and presentations, (c) appropriate interactions with classmates and instructor, and (d) complying with **all** due dates.

List of Possible Consequences

Verbal warning in class, Revised seating arrangements, Student/teacher conferences, Detention referral, Parent guardian contacts, Referrals to school administration, ISS (In School Suspension) OSS (Out of school Suspension), Expulsion

FOOD/DRINKS:

Respect the environment around you and use the designated recycle bin and trash receptacles. We will be using computers, iPads and other various forms of technology in this class and all drinks and food must be away from the equipment to ensure safekeeping and minimize accidents.

CELL PHONES/I-Pods etc.:

Cell phones are to be turned off during instruction (can be kept on with prior teacher permission) unless class activity involves the use of your phone. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action that may result in loss of privilege.

Daily Work Expectations

Class lectures, group discussions, online activities and numerous amounts of supplementary activities will provide information and details on Principles of Democracy Curriculum throughout the duration of the 2016-2017 school year. Students will be required to actively participate in multiple tasks throughout the school year. We will be using both primary and secondary resources to enhance the topics discussed in class as well as a number of current affair topics, some of which controversial in nature, so respect amongst each other and professionalism is a must every class period.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

You only have 4 absences, excused or unexcused per semester. Las Cruces Public School District has implemented an attendance policy that requires students to attend 90% of the time in order to earn credit for the course. Students must provide appropriate paperwork within 3 days of the absence. Once the absence has been verified the student may make-up any work. If the student's absence is not verified, a zero will remain in the grade book.

MAKE-UP WORK: Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. The student and teacher will determine deadlines for make-up work. Tests must be made up within two weeks.

Grading

Your grade will be based on 40% daily assignments and 60% assessments which include projects, quizzes, unit exams, quarter assessments and comprehensive semester final exams. It is very important that students turn their work in on time and that it is complete for maximum possible points.

Each semester final grade will be as follows:

1st nine weeks 40% of final grade 2nd nine weeks 40% of final grade
Comprehensive final exam 20% of final grade

Please Note: This syllabus is a guideline for instruction, changes may occur at the instructor's discretion when deemed appropriate for the enhancement of student learning.