

Instructor: Andrew Montoya

Phone: 527-9330

e-mail: amontoya3@lcps.k12.nm.us

online grade book: <http://parentvue.lcps.k12.nm.us/>

Tutoring available: morning, lunch and after school by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT: United States Government: *Democracy in Action. 2003 edition (online version)*

Course Description

Welcome to your honors Principles of Democracy course! 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 upon history. 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. Course content will also include contemporary U.S. issues. The emphasized purpose of Honors 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

August 14 - October 16th: Introduction to Government and Foundations of American Government

October 17th – December 20th: The U.S. Constitution and the 3 Branches of U.S. Government

January 8th – March 14th: Civil Liberties, Civil Rights and Political Parties and Elections

March 17th – May 9th: Principles of the Free Market

Classroom Rules

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. Flash Drive with sufficient memory capacity (minimum of 1 gigabyte preferred)
2. Blue and/or black pens
3. Loose leaf college ruled paper
4. Notebook/file folder/pocket folder to place important information in for this course
5. 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.

CHEATING and/or PLAGIARISM:

All class work must be your own. The faculty and administration do 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, Parent guardian contacts, Detention referral, 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 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 copious amounts of supplementary activities will provide information and details on Principles of Democracy Curriculum throughout the duration of the 2013-2014 school year. Students will be required to actively participate in multiple dimensions 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 class participation, homework, essays, online work, written work, reports, presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests. It is very important that you turn your work in on time.

Your semester 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.

Please sign and return this page by _____

I have received and read the course syllabus for Honors Principles of Democracy. If any questions or concerns arise throughout the 2013-2014 school year I will contact Mr. Montoya at my earliest convenience.

Student Name (print) _____ **Class Period:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Home Phone Number: _____

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Best Method of Contact (Please Circle one)

Phone

Text Message

Email

