

American Government & Civics

COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTORS: Mr. Krause, skrause@psd202.org 815-577-4400 ext 6484

COURSE RATIONALE:

This course is a survey of the American political system. We will discuss, research and learn about the structures and theories of American government as well as government in practice. Students will be required to complete assignments both inside and outside of class that will give them a better understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship as well as the tools to be a responsible citizen.

GRADING:

Course grades are based on the following percentages:

- Homework & Classwork 20%
- Assessments 60%
- Final Exam 20%

Outcome Assessments:

- You **MUST** receive score of 60% or better on Outcome Assessments or a mandatory retake of the assessment may be required
- Retake guidelines:
 - Outcome Assessments only
 - 60% or lower only - should retake before next Outcome Assessment
 - 60-70% **MAY** retake before next Outcome Assessment
 - Arrange a date with teacher after school/study hall - **NO IN CLASS MAKE-UPS**
 - Highest score up to 70% will replace failing score

COURSE WORK:

Education is about producing - not consuming!!! As a result, students will be required to complete a plethora of different assignments throughout the year, such as, summaries, worksheets, essays, projects, presentations, debates, etc. Furthermore, in an effort to promote individual and communal growth, all students are expected to engage in class discussions.

MATERIALS:

Please have a notebook and a folder specifically for this class. An alternative to the above would be a binder with paper for note taking and a folder inside. Whatever the combination, you are expected to bring a notebook and other materials to class daily.

TEXTBOOKS:

We have a class set of textbooks for your use while in class. Please leave the textbook you are issued at home or in your locker, it will be used largely as a reference tool.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS:

Academically, students should beware of the following policies. First, homework will be assigned approximately every other day. Longer assignments will have multiple days for completion. All work handed in should be in the student's own words. Late work will be accepted for up to ½ credit.

THE CONSTITUTION TESTS:

YES, YOU MUST TAKE AND PASS WITH A 70% TWO TESTS: THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. YES, YOU ALREADY TOOK THESE IN EIGHTH GRADE AND YES; YOU HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN. GOVERNOR PRITZKER AND YOUR FRIENDS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAY SO.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

You will be required to attend two of three village board, school board and/or park district board meetings. You will be advised of further requirements throughout the year.

Week in Semester	Major Theme of Study	Chapters in Text (full or partial)
1	People and Government	1
2	Origins of American Government	1, 2
3	Origins of American Government	2
4	Performance Based Assessment #1	Supplemental Materials
5	The Constitution & Federalism	3, 4.1
6	Legislative Branch	5 & Others
7	Executive Branch	8 & Others
8	Judicial Branch	11 & Others
9	Constitution Test	3, 4.1, 5, 8, 11 & Others
10	Debates	Supplemental Materials
11	Voters, Parties & Elections	16, 17
12	Voters, Parties & Elections	16, 17
13	Voters, Parties & Elections	16, 17
14	Voters, Parties & Elections	16, 17
15	Performance Based Assessment #2	16, 17
16	Illinois Constitution & Flag Code	Supplemental Materials
17	Local Government & IL Constitution Test	Supplemental Materials
18	Final Exam Review & Finals	Various

ABSENT POLICY:

Students who are absent from class for any reason will have one week to make up any work assigned on the day the student was absent. This includes tests. Tests may be made up any day before school, most days after school (coordinate with me) or during periods 3 or 4B.

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