

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/ECONOMICS COURSE SYLLABUS

Mr. Peirano

Government/Economics consists of a survey of the American political and economic systems. The course provides knowledge in the areas of civic responsibility, individual rights, basic economic principles and the citizens' relationship with government. Activities focus on an analysis of political and economic events and the interactions among the three branches of government and between the government and the general public. Primary and secondary sources are used in this analysis and some outside/supplementary reading is required. Course objectives correspond to those of the Alabama Social Studies Course of Study and are correlated to the Alabama High School Graduation Exam and Stanford Achievement Test. This course fulfills the graduation requirement of one unit of American government/economics for a standard diploma.

Essential Functions

Each student must demonstrate the ability to function at a twelfth grade level or higher in the following areas:

- Read and comprehend text and supplemental readings
- Communicate in written and oral forms using standard grammar, sentence and paragraph structure
- Understand and respond in written and oral forms to higher order of critical thinking questions
- Comprehend spoken and written terminology unique to the areas of study
- Actively participate in classroom discussions
- Take accurate and useful notes
- Work effectively in cooperative learning groups
- Possess independent study skills

Successful completion of this course is dependent upon student utilization of these skills in analyzing and evaluating issues relating to the American political and economic systems.

Materials

1. 2 in., 3 ring binder with clear plastic front that a sheet of paper can slide into, Government and student's name should be on the paper in the clear pouch, (all notes, homework, and handouts will be kept here)
2. Notebook paper
3. Blue or Black pen
4. Divider tabs-each student needs a package of at least 5.

Expectations

- A positive attitude in an atmosphere of mutual respect is expected at all times.
- Students are expected to comply with all policies set forth by the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education regarding tardies, make-up work, standards of behavior, etc.
- **Attendance is required to successfully complete the course.** A portion of the content will extend beyond the scope of the text and will be covered only in the classroom discussion.
- Any work missed due to an excused absence may be made up within the guidelines of the *Student Handbook*. It is the students' responsibility to contact me within the prescribed time framed allotted for make-up work.
- I will **NOT** provide make-up work for students absent for **unexcused** reasons.
- All students should be adequately prepared to participate in all classroom discussions in an informed manner.
- **Students should come to class prepared to work bringing all necessary materials (textbook, paper, pen, Government/Economics binder) to every class session.**
- **All assignments are to be handed in on time, neatly done, on notebook paper, and in blue or black ink.** Late assignments will not be accepted.
- All students will be required to read and analyze assigned pages in the textbook as well as primary and secondary materials provided by me.
- Students are expected to engage in meaningful writing related to political and economic issues being studied.

Grading Policy

The final grade for each grading period will be based on various methods of assessment. These include, but are not limited to, tests, homework assignments, projects, essays, organized notebooks, quizzes (announced and unannounced), and class participation. The required nine-week exam will constitute 20% of the nine-week average. The final course grade will be determined by averaging both nine weeks twice and the final exam once.

Students may earn an exemption from the comprehensive final exam if they meet the following criteria:

- Possess an "A" average with three or fewer absences (excused or unexcused) or
 - Possess a "B" average with two or fewer absences (excused or unexcused) or
 - Possess a "C" average with one or fewer absences (excused or unexcused)
- and**
- Have no discipline referrals that result in detention or suspension

Do not ask if an assignment is for a grade. Assume all assignments will count.