

American Government

Mr. DeNardo / Room 205 Spring 2020

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General Course Objectives:

During this course you will develop an understanding of how American government works. We will look at its underlying principles and ideals and see how they are applied in today's rapidly changing world. Together we will explore how our elected leaders and representatives are tackling serious problems facing American society today. We will look at how policies are shaped by important social, political, and economic factors. We will prepare to be active citizens and voters. And we will do this in a variety of ways: discussion, reading, debate, writing, research, and creating legislation.

Course Requirements & Expectations

The Three Commandments: 1) **Mutual Respect** 2) **Raise Your Hand** 3) **Be On Time** It is your responsibility to treat each person in our class with kindness and respect. I have no tolerance for rudeness toward fellow students or disruptive behavior. You definitely will need to raise your hand and be called on during class discussions for the interaction to flow well and be effective. You are expected to be in class every day. You are expected to be punctual. *You must be in your seat when the bell rings to be considered on time.*

Class Participation: Your attendance and participation in this class matters! Much of the learning in this class will come from an interaction of ideas among you students. As such, you will receive a participation grade based on your willingness and effort to add to class discussions and your effort and enthusiasm during in-class assignments.

eSchool Plus/Checking Grades: Unless you are new to Redwood, you should be registered on eSchoolPlus. This is how you will check your grade throughout the semester. If you are new or returning to Redwood, you will need to register your student e-mail address on the Redwood Home Page. Next, you will need to create an eSchoolPlus account on the Home Access Center.

Website: Each and every class assignment will be posted to my website. From there you will be able to look at and/or print out copies of homework assignments, Power Point presentations, Study Guides, practice multiple choice questions, additional useful links, etc.

Approximate Grading Breakdown

Participation	10%
Projects/Papers/Homework	25%
Tests/Quizzes	40%
Final Exam	25%

This Semester in a Nutshell

- I. The Constitution & the Executive Branch
- II. Political Parties and Elections
- III. The Legislative Branch & Mock Senate
- IV. Civil Rights and the Judicial Branch

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89.9%

C = 70-79.9%

D = 60-69.9%

F = Below 60%

Deadlines

-Late work is accepted within 2 class days of the due date for up to 70% credit and within one week of the due date for up to 50% credit.

-Tests must be made up WITHIN one week of the absence or else you receive a "0".

--If you underachieve on a test, and your overall grade in the course is C or below, you will have the opportunity to complete test corrections to improve your score.

-If you have an excused absence (illness), work is due the day you return; if your absence is unexcused or you are on campus but miss my class, your work is still due on time; if you go on a field trip/college visit, you must turn in the work before you leave or email it to meet the deadline.

-Any assignment sent electronically (emailed) must also be handed in as a hard copy to receive a grade.

TIP: a "0" is a lot lower than an "F" (50%).

Extra Help/Making Up Tests: I am very committed to helping you succeed in my class. Please come in and see me for extra help if you need it. Times for making up tests, doing test corrections, and getting extra individual help are 7th period, after 7th period, Tuesdays at lunch, Thursdays SMART period, and by appointment.

Food in Class: Food is not allowed during class. Gum is okay if it is not heard and does not get stuck on desks/furniture. The only drinks allowed are bottled water, coffee, and tea.

Cell phones/HW from other classes/Books: When entering class, cell phones will be placed in the pocket chart in front of the classroom and attendance will be taken based on your phone being in your designated slot. If any cell phones are discovered being used during class without explicit permission, the phone will only be returned to a parent or guardian. In addition, working on homework from other classes or getting out books to read (school or otherwise) during class will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Plagiarism—to use and pass off as one's own the ideas or writings of another—is a very serious offense and will not be taken lightly in this course. The same goes for cheating. Consequences will include a failing grade for the assignment, referral to the VP, possible suspension from class and note of unethical conduct placed in your permanent file.