

Welcome to

12th Grade Government

with Mr. Solis!



Welcome

Greetings students and families! I am incredibly excited to begin this journey with you in your final year of high school as your Government and Economics teacher!

Course Description

In this course, we will achieve a greater, critical understanding of our government and the interactive relationship we share with it. We will cover several units in depth, including the foundations and purpose of American government, the impact of civil rights and liberties, the role political parties, campaigns, and elections play in society, and the influence of media on American political opinions. In this course, we will explore these concepts through analyzing sources, crafting articulate and accurate written responses, debate presentations, and through the project design process.

Essential Skills

Essential Skill-Content: (30% of grade) Students will be able to identify, explain, and evaluate the concepts, events, and people of U.S Government

Essential Skill-Analysis: (35% of grade) Students will be able to analyze, evaluate and synthesize multiple sources, including primary and secondary resources, historical data, charts, maps, historical imagery (i.e., political cartoons, propaganda, etc.).

In doing so, they will answer these questions:

Evidence: How do we know what's true or false? What evidence counts? What type of evidence is used?

Viewpoint: How might this look if we stepped into other shoes, or looked at it from a different direction.

Connection: Is there a pattern? Have we seen something like this before?

Significance: Why does this matter?

Inference: Based on what you know, what can you conclude? What if it were different?

Essential Skill-Presentation: (15% of grade) Presentation

Students will be able to effectively present information, arguments, analysis and evaluation about course material in a sophisticated and focused manner that uses evidence to support statements.

Habits of Mind: (20% of grade) Accountability will be based on meeting in class checkpoints, assignment deadlines, homework, and participation in class discussions.

Grading

Grades will be determined through the Design Based Grading system using a 4 point scale. Students will be assessed on the level of their mastery of the essential skill(s) learned. Your overall grade is determined by two components: Essential Skills (80%) and Habits of Mind (20%). Habits of Mind consists of Accountability. The percentage you receive is equivalent to a letter grade, as demonstrated by the following chart:

| Points | Meaning | Letter Grade Equivalent |
|--------|--|-------------------------|
| 0.0 | No evidence. Marked as Missing in the gradebook. | I |
| 1.0 | Evidence does not demonstrate understanding. | I |
| 2.0 | Evidence demonstrates partial understanding. | C |
| 3.0 | Evidence demonstrates understanding. | B |
| 4.0 | Evidence demonstrates detailed understanding that goes beyond that of teacher instruction. | A |

Policies, etc.

Absences: For every day you are absent, you have a day to turn in your work or make up any in-class assignments. If you are absent for a quiz or test, then you must make up your test upon the day you return. It is your responsibility to ask for and recover your absent work. Be professional, if you know you're going to be absent, tell me. You can always e-mail me for missing work the day you are absent or even just to check-in with me. Please feel welcome to reach out to me if you have any special needs regarding your attendance. We can definitely hash out solutions.

After 3 absences I will conference with you and submit a log entry on PowerSchool. After 5 absences I will call home and submit a log entry on PowerSchool. After 7 absences, I will recommend that you be put on an attendance contract.

Late Work: If you do not turn in work, you will get an automatic zero in the gradebook until you turn in the work. You have until the end of the current unit to turn in any late work for that unit. All late work will receive a 1 on the Accountability Habits of Mind grade.

Revisions: Revisions and/or “retakes” will be offered only for major assignments, such as projects, tests, and essays. After you have received your grade of said project, test, and/or essay; you will have a two week window to make any revisions. Again, it is your responsibility to begin communication with me on this.

Technology: We will use technology in the classroom by way of tablets, laptops, phones, etc. There will be designated activities where you will be allowed to use this technology, as designated by me. The following will be applied for misuses of your iPad, phone, and other electronic devices: (1) First offense is a warning, (2) second offense it will be taken away and you will get it at the end of class, (3) third offense it will be taken away and given to administration for you to pick up at the end of the day, (4) fourth offense it will be taken away for your parents to pick up.

Course Expectations

My class rules are simple:

1. **Be respectful.** My classroom is built upon mutual respect.
2. **Take Responsibility.** Stuff happens whether we like it or not, but we still need to take responsibility for our actions.
Take ownership of your mistakes. Excuses like “my printer broke,” “I lost my flashdrive,” “I left it at home,” will not work.
3. **Participate.** Your experience in school is what you make it. Be present, be active, do YOUR best, try new things, step out of your comfort zone, learn and value what you learn, leave your pride at the door and ask questions. After all, this is your education.

Materials Needed

You will be expected to be prepared when you come to class. Please have the following materials available to you:

1. Pen/Pencil
2. Highlighter Marker
3. A section in a binder that is dedicated to government with loose leaf paper or a notebook that is dedicated to this course.
4. Provided class documents

My Contact Information

Frank Solis
Room: 406
E-mail: fsolis@davincischools.org
DP: dvdsolis.weebly.com

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Information

Please review this syllabus with your family and complete the following information:

1. Student Name: _____ Parent(s)/guardian(s) name(s): _____
2. Parent/guardian signature: _____
3. Student e-mail: _____ Student Signature: _____

