

# Government and Economics

## Summary of Important Procedures and Policies

Instructor: Julie Honegger

Year: 2009-2010

Required Materials: You must have a 1½ inch three ring binder with three sections: 1 section for returned work that you will keep to study from; 1 section for lined paper for written assignments; and 1 section for a spiral three ring notebook that you will use to take class notes. You must bring your textbook to school everyday. Your textbook is not a folder; do not file your papers in your textbook. Your binder is also not a folder; do not leave papers loose or out of order. I will do surprise binder checks to make sure you remain organized and you are prepared for class and exams.

Tardy Policy: You are tardy if you are not physically inside the classroom when the bell rings or if you don't have the materials necessary for class (textbook, binder, notebook, etc). You are also tardy if you are not doing the warm-up exercise within 1 minute of the bell ringing. I will take note of every tardy. If you are marked tardy four times in one quarter, your grade will be lowered 1/3 of a grade (A- to a B+).

Absence Policy: If you are absent from my class you are responsible for completing all classwork and homework. I will not remind you to complete the work from your absence; it is your responsibility to ask me for the makeup work before or after your absence. For each day you have an excused absence, you have a day extension. If you do not complete the classwork from your absence, you will receive no credit for that day's work. Any unexcused absence will lower your grade by 1/3 (A- to a B+). You may not make up any work from an unexcused absence. You will fail the class if you are absent more than 10 days (not including sports or field trips).

Late Work/Missing Work Policy: Late homework will be accepted for only 1 week past its due date. If you turn your work in by that date, you have until the end of the quarter to make changes on it to improve your grade. Late classwork will receive a lower score than work turned in on time, but will be accepted until the end of the quarter. You have until the end of the quarter to make changes on any of your classwork assignments to improve your grade. Late essays or papers will be marked down by 1/3 of a grade (A- to a B+) for EACH day they are late. If you turn your essay or paper in on time, you may rewrite or edit your paper for a higher grade.

Mandatory Study Hall: If you have a D+ or lower at cinches you will have 1 week (5 days) of lunch study hall. If you do not turn in at least ¾ of the homework on the day it is due (usually Friday), you will have 1 day of lunch study hall the next school day (usually Monday). Mandatory lunch study hall begins 15 minutes into lunch at the detention bell. If you skip or are late to study hall, you will get 1 extra study hall day added. For each day you miss, you will have an extra day added. If you continue to not serve your lunch study hall, you will serve detention in the office after a conference with the Principal or Vice-Principal.

Copying: Copying homework from another student will result in a zero for both people involved. I carefully read 90% of what you turn into me, and I can tell who is copying from whom. Copying from the Internet or other texts is called plagiarizing and is also a serious offense. Plagiarizing will result in a zero on the assignment and a conference with the Principal or Vice-Principal.

Test Procedure: During tests there is absolutely **no talking**. Cheating (including copying or plagiarizing) results in a zero and a call home and a note in your permanent record.

Grades and Grade Sheets: Grade sheets will be sent home and require your parents' signature. If you are caught forging your parents' signature there will be serious consequences.

# Government Course Syllabus

## Course Objectives:

This class is designed to be a meaningful, relevant, and useful course of instruction about how the United States government functions, how to be involved our local community, and how to analyze current controversial issues. We will be doing the traditional academic tasks of **reading, writing, speaking and thinking**; in addition we will be **participating** as a class in our local and state communities. Students enrolled in Government will also be practicing important skills necessary for 2 or 4-year colleges. Those skills include **analytical reading, essay writing, research, academic discussion, and professional presentation.**

## Course Organization:

### Homework

Homework assignments are given each Monday and are due at the end of the week on Friday. The amount of work assigned equals approximately 20 minutes per night. If students leave their homework for Thursday night, they should expect to have to work for over an hour to finish it. It is impossible to pass the class without doing *SOME* of the homework; it is impossible to get an A in the class without doing *ALL* of the homework.

### Class Work

**Lecture and Activities:** Every Monday and Tuesday/Wednesday there will be a combination of lectures and activities to learn and discuss about how the United States government works:

- US Citizenship
- The History of the Constitution
- The Bill of Rights
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Bureaucracy
- The Judicial Branch
- Federalism
- Checks and Balances

**Committees:** Students will be divided into three committees the first week of school and will meet every Thursday in their committee. The three committees will be in charge of three projects:

- planning a day trip to Sacramento, the California State Capitol
- planning a community service project for the class
- planning a panel discussion on a current topic of interest

**Current Events Presentations:** At the end of the semester, a pair of students will give a 50-minute PowerPoint presentation on a current controversial topic. All Fridays until the presentation will be devoted to on-line research.

### Testing and Grading

Similar to a traditional college course, there will be one mid-term exam and one final exam.

Semester One		
80%	40%	Class Work and Committee Work
	40%	Homework and Tests
	20%	Essays
20%	Current Events Presentation	

## Course Text:

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. The Center for Civic Education; Calabasas: 1995.

I have read the student syllabus and the procedures and policies for Ms. Honegger's Government class.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_