

American Government

I. Introduction

This is an introductory course in American Government that is designed to cover Oregon Government standards. Due to the nature of the course, it is critical that you put forth your best effort on a daily basis. In this course, you will have ample opportunity to demonstrate that you are academically competent learners, effective communicators, productive individuals, politically aware individuals, and involved citizens.

II. Course of Study

1. Foundations of American Government
2. Political Beliefs and Behaviors
3. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
4. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and the Media
5. Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court

III. Student Responsibilities

- A. I cannot overstate the importance of keeping pace with required readings, notes, and assignments. They will be helpful for unit exams and also for reviewing for the final exam.
- B. In class, be prepared to think, ask questions, and make comments...be an active learner.
- C. If "life happens", see me to make arrangements to deal with your academic responsibilities.
- D. If you have difficulties with this class, feel free to get extra help.

IV. When can I get HELP from Mr. Blackburn outside of class:

Before school...I arrive to school approximately 7:00.

During school...RIE, lunch (11:56-12:26), 1st period (my prep)

After school...I will be here generally until 4:00.

Email me @...blackburn_chris@silverfalls.k12.or.us

Finally, if you want to be assured of getting help for a specific time please make an appointment.

V. Grades:

Your grade is weighted as follows:

75% = Academic

25% = Personal Management

Government grade scale

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

Academic includes assessments as indicated by instructor, for instance, writings, projects, quizzes, unit exams, semester final, etc.

Personal Management includes a variety of items, such as, your participation in discussions, completion of course work, and personal behavior, etc.

VI. Homework

A. Expect reading, writing, and media assignments.

B. Retake Policy:

Quizzes may be re-taken within each unit, if all academic assignments are completed for the section by making arrangements with instructor.

The Social Science Department will have no retakes on exams except through instructor discretion due to special circumstances.

VII. Attendance

Due to the curriculum, expectation is that you attend each day of class. Regular attendance will be an essential component of your academic success and you will be unable to meet the goals of the course unless you are here at minimum **92%** of the time.

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all work during and after an absence. The best policy is to get work prior to absence or to call in or have a friend get work for you. My voice mail number is: 873.6331 ext. 3747 or email at: **blackburn_chris@silverfalls.k12.or.us**

Unexcused absences will receive zero credit for all course work on the day of the absence.

VIII. Cheating

Intellectual honesty, integrity and respect: Students are expected to abide by the highest moral and ethical standards of conduct in the preparation and presentation of graded materials. Such standards are founded on the basic concepts of honesty, integrity and respect for self and others. Any participation in plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. Consequences may include all of the following: zero credit on assignment/exam, transfer to another class, and the loss of respect from instructor and others as well.

Mr. Blackburn
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