

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors"
-Plato

CP American Government

Mr. Staiano

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is an overview of the American political system, its history, and its relationship to other political systems throughout the world. We will examine the different branches of the US Government as well as the many factors that influence the course of politics in the United States. We will also address current important political issues and how all of this relates to you as an individual.

The primary text for this course is United States Government by Remy (Glencoe, 2006). Supplementary materials will be made available by the instructor.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION: It is extremely important that all students arrive to each class session with all necessary materials on time and prepared for the lesson. Because so much information will be covered this semester, poor attendance will affect your ability to perform well in this class and will negatively affect your grade. Participation in class discussions and group activities is mandatory. You are responsible for getting notes you miss due to absences.

B. HOMEWORK AND EXAMS: Homework will consist mainly of reading assignments. Each unit will conclude with an exam. If you miss an exam, you have until the next exam to make it up or receive a zero. Exams are to be made up during support or by arrangement with the instructor. Students may use notes on all exams except make-ups, the culture exam, and the final. Due dates are the responsibility of the student; no late work will be accepted.

C. PROJECTS: There may be various projects assigned throughout the semester.

D. FINAL EXAM: There will be a final exam on the material covered in the course. It is very important that you keep good notes and get notes you miss due to an absence.

E. STAIANOLAND: The instructor maintains a website where due dates, assignments, and other important information can be found. As well, students can access their current grades as well as link to Staianopalooza. Students are encouraged to regularly visit www.staianoland.com.

F. STAIANOPALOOZA: The class maintains an online learning community where course notes and exam questions may be posted and where student discussions may take place. The site is a valuable tool for students wishing to excel in the course. Students are encouraged to regularly visit <http://staianopalooza.ning.com>

III. GRADING POLICY:

The assignment of grades will be based on the following scale:

89-100% = A
79-89% = B
69-79% = C
59-69% = D
0-58% = F

IV. EXTRA CREDIT:

There *may* be opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester.

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V. CLASSROOM RULES:

In addition to the rules and regulations of AHS and LVUSD,

1. The student will arrive to class on time and will be seated by the time the bell rings. There are no excused tardies.
2. The student will arrive to class prepared with textbook, pen or pencil, notebook, homework, and other necessary materials every day.
3. The student will respect the rights and properties of others. "Others" include teachers, students, and any classroom observers, guests, or visitors. "Rights and Properties" include personal belongings and personal space, as well the freedoms to speak, think, and learn in a comfortable environment. Infringements on the rights or properties of others will result in verbal warnings, calls home, and/or disciplinary referrals, depending on the infringements.
4. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of particular due dates. No late work will be accepted.
5. Missed exams are to be made up during support periods. Failure to make up an exam by the next unit exam will result in a zero for that exam.
6. Cell phones, ipods, etc. are absolutely not allowed in class.

VI. CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

Cheating shows a lack of respect for yourself as well as your classmates and your teacher. Take pride in your work. Do not claim the hard work and well-thought ideas of others for your own. There will be a zero tolerance policy for cheating; those who are caught cheating or plagiarizing the work of others will not receive credit for the assignment or exam, and a call home will be made. The policies of Agoura High School will be strictly enforced. If you keep up with the reading assignments, participate in class discussions, and complete the assigned work honestly, there will not be any need to cheat. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, copying homework, plagiarizing research papers, etc.

VII. SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. This includes jokes, innuendos, etc. Sexual harassment is against the law and any perceived instances will be reported to the administration of AHS.