Disclosure Statement
Mr. Richins
Hillcrest High School
AP Government and Politics
2019-2020 School Year

Course Introduction:

A.P. Government and Politics: United States is meant to be the equivalent of a survey college course. Consequently, you have the opportunity to experience college rigor while still in a high school setting. I am committed to doing everything I can to help you succeed. You will need to devote significant time and energy to the class in order to be successful. The reward for your commitment will be a firm grasp of United States government, development of college-level academic skills, and possible college credit. We will use a wide variety of learning tools including cooperative learning, lecture, class discussion, unit projects and films. Difficult and controversial subjects are an integral part of this courses curriculum; students are expected to be respectful and considerate during classroom discussion.

Course Goals

1. Develop essay-writing skills; including formatting, supporting and analyzing varied topics.
2. Refine academic skills, including reading, listening note taking and critical thinking.
3. Obtain a comprehensive understanding of U.S. government.
4. Become familiar with current events and the impact that can be directly felt.
5. Students will learn to take notes in an organized and useful format (aligned with the common social studies department format).

Grading Policy

Grading in this course will be done on an overall point basis. Points can be earned through work in three categories: assignments (approx. 30%), participation (approx. 10%), and tests/quizzes (approx. 60%). The percentage of points earned will determine the students’ letter grade. Fellow classmates may evaluate several of your quizzes and assignments in this course. By doing so, the students learn from the ideas and mistakes of their peers, thus helping the class grow together. Students and parents need to check skyward often and report any attendance or grade discrepancy immediately. Because this is an AP class, it is vital to keep up on the reading and class assignments. Because of this, late work will be accepted for up to 80% before the unit exam. No work will be accepted after the unit exam.

Grade Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>93-100</th>
<th>90-92</th>
<th>87-89</th>
<th>83-86</th>
<th>80-82</th>
<th>77-79</th>
<th>73-76</th>
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<th>67-69</th>
<th>63-66</th>
<th>60-62</th>
<th>0-55</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Primary Text:

Supplemental Texts:

Access to a daily newspaper: School library has access to several hard copy and electronic newspaper subscriptions

Class Rules

The rules that we have set for the class are simple, but will be strictly enforced.

1. Students will show **respect** to the teacher and other classmates. *(This includes the use of electronic devices only when teacher permission is granted. Also no wearing hats.)*
2. Students must come to class **prepared** and ready to work.
3. Students must be **productive** (use class time wisely).
4. Students must be **honest** at all times.*
5. Students are to bring no electronic devices to class. **Unauthorized use will result in a tardy.**

*Cheating will result in a zero on the test, quiz or assignment. On many assignments you can help each other, but you may not simply copy. If you do your work, do not let others copy. On writing assignments you must turn in the original copy and not a Xeroxed copy. Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment. **MAIN POINT: DO THE BEST YOU CAN, LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES AND BE A MORAL PERSON.**

All district rules and policies will be followed.

Consequences

If one or more of these rules are broken the following discipline will occur:

1\textsuperscript{st} offense… A student/teacher conference will be held to discuss in private, the unacceptable behavior and possible repercussions if the behavior persists.

2\textsuperscript{nd} offense… Contact with the student’s parent/guardian will be made and the student may be referred to the office or detention.

3\textsuperscript{rd} offense… The student will be required to have a conference with the teacher, the administration, and the parent or guardian before being allowed to return to the classroom.

** If a student shows exceptional character in following any of the rules, his or her parents will be notified.
Student Support Time
Monday, Friday and most Wednesday mornings between 7:00 am and 7:50 am is time set aside for students to get assistance from their teachers. In this class, that includes the opportunity to receive absent work and directions, take missing exams, and have assignments or reading clarified. I will also readily use the new APP time to make-up tests and assist students with difficult concepts.

Test Retakes
Retakes on any tests will be at the teacher’s discretion and when available, will be available for the entire class. Test retakes for individual students will not be given.

HHS Attendance Policy
Hillcrest High School’s Attendance policy will be strictly enforced. After 4 tardies or absences the student must attend attendance school or receive a no-grade.

Attendance Bonus
Every student who completes the term without a single absent or tardy will receive a ½ step raise in his or her final grade (B to B+). There must be no absence excused or unexcused for the student to receive the bonus. School excused absences are the exception. We reserve the right to terminate this bonus program after each of the four quarters.

Note Taking:
Students will be expected to take notes in class every day. We will be following a uniform system common to the social Studies department. Note books will be graded periodically.

Final Remarks
I am extremely excited at the prospect of a very successful year. If you have any questions please contact me through email; Samuel.richins@canyonsdistrict.org. Please sign the attached letter indicating that you have read and agree to the policy of this class, as explained in this document. Thank you and we look forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richins
Course Introduction:

American Problems is a class that is designed to have students engage in critical thinking. We will discuss a wide variety of issues that face America today. Many of these issues are controversial and require the students to approach with an open mind. The nature of this course requires students to be respectful of other students’ ideas and opinions. Civil dialogue will be demanded in all class discussion.

Grading Policy

Grading in this course will be done on an overall point basis. Points can be earned through work in three categories: assignments 30%, participation 33%, and tests/quizzes 33%. The percentage of points earned will determine the students’ letter grade. Fellow classmates may evaluate several of your quizzes and assignments in this course. By doing so, the students learn from the ideas and mistakes of their peers, thus helping the class grow together. Students and parents need to check skyward often and report any attendance or grade discrepancy immediately. Late work will not be accepted after the unit assessment. Test retakes will be available after a remediation assignment is finished. There is a maximum of one retake and it must be done within two weeks of the original test day.

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**Extra Credit**

Extra credit opportunities may be presented a few times throughout the course of a term. These opportunities will be given to the entire class. Extra credit given to individual students will not be given.

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