

AP U.S. Government & Economics

Welcome

I am looking forward to a successful year by broadening your understanding of American Government. With some effort everyone can be successful in this class. I encourage everyone to participate in the classroom activities and have fun.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

is to explain the expectations and grading procedures for your American Government/Economics class. You are expected to share this information with your parents and place this in the front of your notebook.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

In order to cover AP U.S. Government and Politics and accommodate room for the mandatory economics curriculum during the senior year of high school, the course will split time. The focus of the course will start with AP Government and Politics curriculum. This curriculum will drive the course through late October. The following 9-10 weeks of the course will start to blend (AP Government and Economics) and focus more on covering the key concepts within the 12th grade Economics curriculum. This hybrid course model was specifically selected by teachers, students and administrators to optimize time with students. This additional time will allow for a more in depth and thorough study of all course materials.

Over the course of the year we will emphasize topics appropriate for a comprehensive introduction to government and economics which also serve as a way to connect to your life to local and global communities. The senior year of high school social studies could be subtitled *The Contemporary American System*. Unlike most history surveys, this course is not organized chronologically and it does not revolve around questions of interpreting the past. This course starts with a somewhat different set of questions that focus us on how democracy and capitalism function in the here and now. Of course these questions cannot be answered without an understanding of history, but historical inquiry is only one of several avenues available, and we will draw primarily on scholarship from political science, economics, and media studies.

Current events will also be covered throughout the semester. Group activities and individual participation will be emphasized. **As per Saratoga High School's ESLRs you will have ample opportunity to demonstrate that you are academically Self directed learners, Complex thinkers, Effective communicators, Effective and Ethical Citizens, Collaborative workers and Healthy individuals.**

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:

1. RESPECT

Respect for self, fellow students, and the teacher is necessary in the classroom. Each member of the class is a valuable individual and should be treated as such. Therefore, interrupting or disrespecting fellow class members or the teacher in any form including put-downs, swearing, complaining, and/or class disruptions will NOT be tolerated.

2. ATTENDANCE/TARDIES

All students are expected to be on time for class. Being on time means being in your seat before the bell rings. Tardies, unexcused absences, and missing important days **will affect your grade.**

3. MATERIALS

All students are expected to come to class prepared. This means each student **MUST BRING** a pen or pencil, paper, notebook and the appropriate text to class **EVERY** day. When we are in the classroom there will be iPads available for student project usage.

4. HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned. It is the student's responsibility to turn in all homework **on time** in class. Work turned in after the teacher collects it is considered late. Work turned in late as a result of unexcused absences will not earn credit. Students will be allotted **one** late assignment and must not be turned in later than one day late for credit. All other late work will be allowed only for those students absent due to illness or other excused absences and must be turned in within two days of the student's absence. **Remember, due to the nature of some assignments, not all work can be made up.** (example: missing a important simulation day that cannot be restaged in class). Note, there will be a no homework option

for the class but everyone must do all the reading for class. P Students will have one week to decide on the **no written homework option**. **This option is not available in AP.**

a.) Government Class Website: (It will be **expected** that students frequently download and print assignments from the internet. Class Website: <http://mrdaveyspage.com/> There will be no excuses accepted for "computer problems" unless you have a note from your parent. For these situations, printing in the classroom can only be done before school or after school. These alternatives should only be used if there are computer problems or if students do not have internet access at home. These alternatives should not be used due to student irresponsibility.

5. OFFICE HOURS

I will hold office hours during tutorials, during my prep period 7th, though this will be a bit limited during softball season during which time I may be available during lunch. It is recommended that you notify me before you come. **I prefer to be reached for appointments in person or by email: mdavey@lgsuhd.org** and will infrequently check my phone 867-3411x311

GRADING POLICY

Grades are based on the accumulation of points from a variety of sources. The final semester grade is determined by your percentage of points possible. The scale is as follows:

A+ = 98-100%	B+ = 88.0-89.4%	C+ = 77-79.5%	D = 60-66.9%
A = 90-92%	B = 80-87.9%	C = 69.5-76.9%	D- = 58.0-59.9%
A- = 89.5-89.9%	B- = 89.5-89.9%	D+ = 67.0-69.4%	F = 57.9% and below

Points are earned from the following sources:

A) Class Participation/Project Management (40%) - Just as citizenship and participation are fundamentally important in the democratic process, so is your participation in class. Participation includes social behavior, attendance, punctuality, performance in class activities (debates, simulations, presentations, discussions), quantity and quality of your answers, group work and attitude. This category also includes all class work, group report write-ups, seminars, and periodic notebook checks. It will also include combined days with English 12. An overall participation grade will be given at approximately six-week intervals based on the above criteria. This portion of your grade is often considered more 'subjective'.

B) Exams and Quizzes (20%) - Tests will come at the conclusion of each unit. Major quizzes will be interspersed to make sure you are comprehending the material.

C) Homework Assignments (20%) - Since learning does not stop as soon as you walk outside of the classroom homework will be assigned daily. Homework assignments will assume various forms: section review questions, reading notes from handouts, or worksheets. Group project work is not included in this category.

D.) Khan Academy (10%) - Since covering all of the content needed for the AP Examination with less course time is close to impossible, students will be required to sign into a Khan Academy classroom and watch the videos and take the tests that the teacher sets up there.

E) Final Examination (10%) - A comprehensive final exam will be given at the conclusion of the semester. Since this exam covers all of the material throughout the semester it would be helpful to periodically review your notes, tests, text, etc. to avoid cramming for the exam. All students must take the final exam.

Academic Integrity Policy: Any and all forms of cheating will not be tolerated. I will follow the school's Academic Integrity Policy.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the information above on the "American Government Course Requirements" sheet and I understand its content. The student, in consultation with their parents, also has a right to choose which option of the grading scale best fits their learning style.

Student Name Printed: _____
Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Online Synchronous Learning Norms:

- Be awake and mentally ready for class. Develop a healthy and consistent morning routine that energizes you for the day.
- Join the meeting for class at least two minutes prior to the start of the period. Frequent tardies will negatively affect your participation score in class.
- Always login with your school account. Your username must be your full name.
- Enable your camera - My expectation is that you will have your video ON during class. Wear school appropriate clothes when visible on video. If I call on you I expect you to be there and answer.
- Stay focused on class during our time together. Do not be distracted by other devices, websites, or games.
- Do not make any inappropriate comments, either vocally or in the chat.
- In large class discussions with many people, digitally raise your hand to be called on by the moderator or your teacher before speaking. In Zoom, this can be done by clicking on the "participants" box, which will then open up a list of everyone in the meeting. Find your name and hover to the right, you will see the hand icon there.
- Be mindful of your surrounding environment. Don't include items in the background that are either distracting or not appropriate for a school environment.

Asynchronous Learning Norm:

- Check your school email, Mr. Davey's Website and Canvas daily for possible class updates.

Student's Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____