

**American Government Honors Syllabus**

**INSTRUCTOR Information**:

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**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to enable students to gain an understanding of American government and political behavior that is essential for effective citizenship and active involvement in a democratic American society.

**Supplies/Materials:**

* Students need a 3-ringed binder for class.
* Paper
* Pens/pencils
* Index Cards

**Grading Policy:** Grading will be done by the following categories:

**Summative Assessment (50%):** including only test and quizzes.

**Classwork (50%):** You will receive many different assignments, and basically anything you do in class will fall under this category. It can range from a worksheet to a test review.

**Extra Credit**: There will be opportunities to earn extra credit throughout each quarter. However, **DO NOT** ask for extra credit if you haven’t turned in all regular credit assignment.

**Grading:** The grading scale for Fort Pierce Central High School is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A is 100% to 90% | D is 69% to 60% |
| B is 89% to 80% | F is 59% or lower |
| C is 79% to 70% | I is incomplete |

**Differentiation between Honors and Regular credit:**

* Tests: Honors students will be required to complete three essay questions on unit exams, while regular students are only required two.
* Classwork will be made slightly more difficult than Regular Credit.
* Each unit you will be required to write a one page paper on a question given for each unit. The paper will be due on the day of the Exam, but can be turned in any time before the deadline.

**Classroom Management:**

**Tardy Policy**

* Definition – Any student not physically in the classroom when the late bell rings
* All tardy students with a pass will NOT receive a Lunch Detention

**Dress Code Policy**

* Students must be within the dress code policy upon entering the classroom
* Minor dress code violations will result in a lunch detention
* Major dress code violations will result a student pick-up from the Dean

**Electronics Policy**

* Electronics are not used or in view during class activities unless necessary for an approved class activity. You **MUST** have the teacher’s permission before using your cell phone!
* Electronic devices that are blatantly used in class or accidently ring will be confiscated and sent to administration for disciplinary consequences.

**TEST-TAKING POLICY**

**Expected student behavior during any assessment:**

* Students will clear desks of all materials except those needed to take the assessment.
* All electronics must be powered down and out of testing view in book bag, purse, etc.
* Students will not be allowed out of their seats during testing sessions (emergency exceptions).

**Make-up Tests:**

* All make-up tests will occur before or after school. The student must schedule a time to make up the test with the teacher. All make-up tests will cover the same material, but will be presented in an essay format. Tests need to be taken one week from missed test; unless approved by teacher (for serious exceptions).

**CHEATING / MALPRACTICE**

**Cheating/malpractice is defined as behaviors that result in, or may result in, a student gaining an unfair advantage over another student.** Academic Dishonesty violations will be referred to the Dean. Parents will be notified of the violation, and the student will receive a zero on the assignment/test.

**Late assignments**

* Late work will be accepted but will be half credit. There will be cut off dates where certain assignments will no longer be accepted.

**Make-up work**

* It is the responsibility of the student to pick up any missed assignments. All make-up work can be found in the “make-up” work basket.
* Students have two days for every one absence to turn in any make-up work.

**No name on work**

* Students are responsible for writing their name on their assignment. If a student fails to do so, their work will be placed in a “no-name” bin, and potentially never graded.

**Language**

* Foul language will not be tolerated. Students need to use appropriate language in school. Those students who use inappropriate language will receive a warning on their first offense. On the second offense, a dean referral will be written and a parent will be contacted.

**Expectations:**

1. Show respect for everyone and for everything.
2. Come to class on time and prepared
3. Be honest and do your own work.
4. Be aware of and obey all school rules as set forth in the Code of Student Conduct.

**Consequences:**

1. Verbal warning
2. Lunch Detention (only for tardiness and dress code violations)
3. Parental Notification
4. Deal Referral

\*\* If a student is verbally abusive or physically abusive to another student or the teacher that student will immediately receive a referral and be sent to the dean for discipline.

\*\*\*In addition to the classroom rules, all school and district rules must be followed at all times.

**Tips for Success:**

* Check my website for important dates and lecture notes on a regular basis!
* Check skyward for missed work and messages on a regular basis!
* Turn in **ALL** work, a zero hurts your grade more than partial credit!

