



Government 2017-018

COURSE CODE: SOC 415

Mr. Brian Honerbaum

Office Hours: before school (7:00-7:30), 3rd period (9:19—10:06), and after school (2:30-3:00)

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American Government is a required, one-semester course designed for seniors. This course is designed to be a capstone for all students in preparation for active participation in local, state, and national civic life. Knowledge of the fundamentals and principles of the U.S. political system as well as the Iowa political system prepares students for their future responsibilities as citizens of this state and country. In this course, students study politics and the political processes which underlie United States democracy. Following this introduction, students explore each of the major branches of government - Executive, Legislative, and Judicial as they interact both in cooperative and, at times, adversarial ways. The learning processes of this course include discussion of text and other up-to-the-minute readings, timely audio-visual presentations, simulations, local political involvement opportunities and analysis of contemporary current events.

STANDARDS:

Academic Standard 1: The student will evaluate the impact of culture and cultural diversity.

Academic Standard 2: The student will analyze geographical information about people, places, and environments.

Academic Standard 3: The student will analyze geographical information about people, places, and environments.

Academic Standard 4: The student will analyze the interactions between groups, institutions, individual human development, and personal identity.

Academic Standard 5: The student will analyze the interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions and their impact on society.

Academic Standard 6: The student will explain how people create and change structures of power, authority, and government.

Academic Standard 7: The student will apply the economic principles of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Academic Standard 8: The student will analyze the relationship between science, technology, and society

Academic Standard 9: The student will evaluate the impact of globalization and interdependence.

Academic Standard 10: The student will demonstrate citizenship in a democratic republic

PLAN OF STUDY: (Instructor reserves the right to change timelines)

Foundations of the American Political System
The Legislative Branch
The Executive Branch
The Judicial Branch
Linkage Institutions
State and Local Government
Current Public Issues and Policy

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Instruction is based on 21st Century Teaching and Learning Strategies.

- **Critical thinking & Problem solving:** 21st Century students utilize higher order thinking and reasoning to solve problems
- **Communication & Collaboration:** 21st Century students apply knowledge to communicate and collaborate in order to reach a common goal or create a product
- **Digital Age Literacy:** 21st Century students rely on visual and information literacies that require them to find, navigate through, evaluate, and create information in multiple formats.
- **Creativity & Innovation:** 21st Century students develop original ideas and create relevant products by using inventive thinking, research, communication, and collaboration.

RESOURCES

- **Materials:** Come to class each day with the necessary materials. Those include: textbook, binder or folder with paper, a writing utensil, & any notes or assignments that will be used in that class period. I highly recommend a 1 inch binder to keep all your notes in because you will have a lot! These are the resources that will be used daily to enhance your learning & study skills.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS: We are a product of our expectations; higher expectations will result in higher levels of success. Therefore, I have high expectations of you. Your behavior has a huge impact on our learning environment, so I expect you to display behaviors that will make you successful in this classroom (and in life).

RESPECT

- ◆ **Respect each other's feelings, ideas, and differences:** Everyone at Hempstead deserves to feel comfortable and safe. When we are ignorant of others' feelings and intolerant of their differences and opinions, we make others feel uncomfortable and less likely to be active members of our learning community. Everyone in our classroom, including me, will show respect toward one another. Name calling, bullying, mocking, and threats will not be tolerated at any time!
- ◆ **Respect the learning environment:**
 - **Use language that is respectful and appropriate to the school setting:** This classroom is G rated! Some language that you might use with your friends is not always appropriate in a learning environment. Be dignified and use different words to express yourself. Show that you have class and a good academic vocabulary when you are in our classroom.
 - **Electronic devices:** You are welcome to bring in any electronic device (Smartphones, iPads, laptops, tablets, etc.) that can be used for educational purposes. We will use these on a consistent basis. However, they should only be used with your instructor's permission; Ear phones will only be allowed to be worn with permission. If a staff member hears or sees any of these devices being used for non-educational purposes during class, it will be turned off and taken for the remainder of the day. It will be your responsibility to come and get it back at the end of the day. Subsequent offenses could result in your device being turned into the AP Office (per student handbook).
 - **Social Networking:** The classroom is neither the time nor place to be texting, Tweeting, Snapchating, or other similar social interactions. All forms of texting in the classroom are prohibited unless teacher gives permission. *If a staff member suspects you of doing this, your electronic device could be taken away.* Subsequent offenses will result in your device being turned into the AP Office (per student handbook). If you have a family emergency, your family should contact the office while you are in school and not your phone. The office staff is very competent and will get a hold of you within seconds (if you are where you're supposed to be!).
 - **Water and food:** School policy dictates that only clear water in clear containers will be allowed in the classrooms. No Gatorade, PowerAde, Vitamin Water, Crystal Light packets, etc. Absolutely no food is allowed in the rooms (this includes candy). I will allow gum as long as you dispose of it responsibly when you're finished and don't smack or blow bubbles.
 - **Dress Code:** No hats, hoods, or bandanas are to be worn in class. Hats should be left in your locker. We will follow school policy on inappropriate clothing (per student handbook), and on all other aspects related to students.

RESPONSIBILITY

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance in class is a must for your success! Unexcused absences will follow the new Hempstead Attendance Policy. When you are absent it is solely your responsibility to get any work you missed and complete it.
- **Tardiness:** Be to class on time. It is a sign of responsibility and respect for the learning environment. If you are late to class and want to be admitted without getting an unexcused tardy, you will need to have a pass signed by a teacher or office staff.
- **Homework:** Homework is to be completed by the time class starts and handed in during your period to receive full credit. Late work will be accepted but you will not receive full credit. Very few exceptions will be made, but if there are problems beyond your control, please talk to me.
- **Absences:** When you are absent you are not excused from the work that you missed the day(s) of that absence. Upon your return, take time to ask someone in your class what you missed. Copies of sheets you need can be obtained from me. The amount of days in which you were absent is how many days you will have to make up any work; i.e., if you missed one day, you will have one day upon your return to hand in an assignment before it is considered late.
- **Academic Honesty:** It is assumed that any work that a student submits is indeed their own and reflects their best effort. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating on any assignment, project, or assessment will be dealt with according to the cheating/plagiarism policy outlined on page 32-33 of the student planner.

GRADES:

Grades are determined through categories and not through total points. A standard grading scale will be used. (The instructor reserves the right to change weights for each category).

Categories:

Knowledge of Content: These assignments focus on acquiring knowledge of course content material. Generally, assignments from the textbook will fall under this category.

Critical Thinking: These are assignments that require more advanced thinking skills such as interpretation, analysis, inference, evaluation, and justification. These tend to be harder and might take more time. Examples of assignments that fall in this category would be online articles, questions on Edmodo.com, interpreting primary sources, essay writing, group projects/presentations, etc.

Communication/Collaboration: Participation in formal and informal discussions is graded. Discussions can be in many formats including online. Collaboration is also assessed by the teacher and other students.

Assessments: Students will show how well they have learned both knowledge and critical thinking skills through quizzes, tests, and/or projects. This category will make up approximately 40% of the overall grade.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION:

If you or your parent need to reach me or my cooperating teacher beyond the classroom there are several ways to do so:

- I check my email (bhonerbaum@dbqschools.org) frequently throughout the course of the day
- After 2:30, I can sometimes be reached at 815-590-2263.

I have read the syllabus, as well as the other information given.

Child Name

Child Signature

Parent name

Parent signature

Please provide the following information:

Parent's phone number (Best to contact)

Best Times to be reached

Parent e-mail

Student e-mail

Any comments/questions/ concerns that you want me to be aware of?: