AP American Government Contract Mr. Borneman

Oxnard High School Fall 2015 - Spring 2016

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**Class Expectations and Contract**

**Purpose:** This **year long college level course** is designed as preparation for future study in social sciences at a college level. It examines principal themes found in the AP exams for (1) Comparative Government, (2) U.S. Government, (3) Macroeconomics and (4) Microeconomics. This course is **not** designed for any one of these exams in particular, but serves as a base for further study. This course also satisfies the Grade 12 California State Social Science Standards for (5) American Government and (6) Economics. It has been approved by the College Board for both Government and Economics, however, it is designed to serve only as a base for passing these exams, not as a complete course in itself. *Supplemental sessions will be provided for some of these exams.* Grades are based on the following approximate percentages each semester: Quizzes (50%), tests (25%), homework, papers and projects (25%).

**Materials:** For the first semester, students will be issued Magruder’s American Government (Pearson-Prentice Hall edition). For the second semester, students will use American Government: Continuity and Change (O’Connor & Sabato) and selected readings from Gregory Mankiw’s Principles of Economics. Most readings will be primary-source materials. Students will also need to have **writing implements** and **paper** for notes, quizzes, and tests. **Media access** to current events, including **internet access** and **printing capability** will be *required*, if not at home, then through the school computers. Students will select two study partners at the beginning of the course, in case of absences. Students will also be required to have access to the following books: First semester – T.H. White’s The Book of Merlyn and Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s The Social Contract (Penguin Edition, Cranston, trans.) Second semester – Michel Serres’ The Natural Contract and George Orwell’s novel, 1984. The McGraw Hill 5 Steps to a 5: AP Government & Politics is **strongly recommended**, especially for those who will take the AP Exam.

**Five Basic Class Rules:**

1. **Respect for People** – students must show respect for other students, the teacher, administrators, substitutes, visitors, and any others in class. Most importantly students must respect themselves and their ideas.

2. **Respect for Materials** – students must show respect for the property of others and of the school.

3. **Work** – Much written work must be in blue or black ink (or dark pencil); some (such as formal papers) must be typewritten. Notes for quizzes and tests must be handwritten. Names must be on papers. Papers without names will not be graded. I do NOT accept late work.

4. **Preparation** – Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed their readings and assignments. Students should be prepared to speak in class on the topics we have prepared for the day.

5. **Class Time** – Missed **quizzes** (due to tardies or absences – excused or unexcused) cannot be made up *except by extra credit*. If a student knows in advance they will be missing a class, they may consult with the teacher on preparing an alternate assignment to be turned in the day they return to class. Missing **either of the days of a test** (most tests are taken over a two-day period) are made up through an alternate, written assignment which requires making a 45-minute appointment with the teacher after school. *Lunch sessions will be required an average of twice per week*. Class begins when the bell rings and ends when the teacher says it does.

**Student-Generated Rules**: In the first weeks of class, students will generate many of the class rules in addition to the rules above. These student-adopted rules will be considered binding but must be in compliance with CA Ed. Code and the above rules.

**Grading Scale**: Grades are given on a points system. Missed assignments count as zero (0). Missed quizzes many be made up through extra credit. Extra credit is offered occasionally but infrequently. The grading scale is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A++ | ≥100% | C+ | 77 – 79% |
| A+ | 97 – 100% | C | 73 – 77% |
| A | 93 – 96% | C- | 70 – 72% |
| A- | 90 – 92% | D+ | 65 – 69% |
| B+ | 87 – 89% | D | 60 – 64% |
| B | 83 – 86% | D- | 50 – 59% |
| B- | 80 – 82% | F | < 50% |

Students may check their grades on the on-line site, but should be aware that the on-line site is known to miscalculate grades systematically. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY THAT THEIR GRADE IS ACCURATE.

**Final Exam**: The June final exam is **open-note and fully comprehensive** (it covers everything from the first day of class). It consists of 100 multiple-choice questions, 1 generated from each day of the class with additional questions from the final unit. Students going into the final exam with 100% or greater are exempt from the final and will receive an A+ in the class. Students with grades between 70% and 100% will receive *whichever is higher*: their final exam grade or their class grade – unless they receive fewer than 50 points on the final in which case their grade will drop one full letter. Students with a D or D+ MUST pass the final with 50% or better or they will not pass the class. Students with a D- must pass the final with 60% or better or they may fail the class. Students with below 50% going into the final must get a 70% or better on the final in order to pass the class.

**Signatures of Acceptance:**  
Name of Student (printed):

Student Signature:

Name and Signature of Parent or Guardian:/

Class Period and Date: