



Political Science – Mr. Sperry

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Course Description:

In this class we will discuss the different types of government. We will also examine public opinion, political culture/participation, the media and its effects on politics. We will discuss political parties, interest groups, political cartoons and many other topics to help introduce you to the world of politics and government.

Course Objectives:

1. To identify different types of government and the purposes for these differences.
2. To analyze different elements of the political atmosphere in order to see how they affect our political system.
3. To analyze historical data to determine public opinion and mood during past hot political issues.
4. To evaluate how different groups and interest affect the political system.

Grading and Class Participation:

I will calculate your grade based on a total point system. I divide your total points earned with the total points possible and come out with a percentage. Class participation is an important element in this class. I expect you to be in class and actively participating in discussions and activities that we will be doing. Class participation is a factor in regard to your grade. Unexcused absences and unexcused tardies will be considered when completing grades for the semester. The grading scale can be found in your student handbook.

Expected Behavior:

See the *Classroom Procedures Form* for expected behavior in the classroom. Respect and discipline are very important values in my classroom. We must all work together to make this a fun, enjoyable class in which every student can learn.

Consequences:

Though I do not expect any problems, there are consequences to misbehavior. First, there will be a discussion with you (the student) about the behavior. If that does not solve the problem, a teacher detention can result and/or a meeting or call to a parent informing them of your actions. Third, a repeat offender will be written a referral with a repeat of actions one and two from above. Let us all do our part in making this classroom a safe, fun, learning environment.

If there are any problems that I should be aware of, please feel free to discuss them with me at any time. All actions that are found within the student handbook will follow the consequences in the handbook.

Absences:

You are responsible for gathering all homework assignments that were missed during an absence. You will be given the same amount of time to complete the homework as was given to the other students.

Late Work:

You will be allowed to turn in an assignment late **up to the date of the next test** for 50% credit. After you have been tested on the material, that section is closed and late work may not be turned in. Just like in an absence, you are responsible for figuring out what assignments are missing and getting them turned in on time. I want you to do the work and get credit for it. Remember, late work is better than no work!

Required Materials: materials to be brought to class everyday.

- 1" 3 ring binder – this is required for this class. You will keep readings, and other class materials in this binder. The binder will be checked on occasion and given a grade.

- pen or pencil
- paper