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U.S. Government Course Syllabus FALL 2020

Instructor: Faustino Lopez **Email:** Faustino.Lopez@houstonisd.org **Room:** 1101

Office Hours: Monday (3:25pm-4:10pm) & Tues-Fri (1:50pm-2:35 pm)

Course Content

This semester students will examine the innerworkings of the United States Government and political behaviors that influence legislation.

About the Teacher

I was born here in Houston and received my Bachelor's degree at the University of Houston in Education. I have spent years being a tutor at all grade levels including college while also having some coaching experience as well. My hobbies include reading, selling on Ebay, publishing educational videos on Youtube and playing/watching sports. I plan to get a master's degree in History as well to supplement my current credentials.

Course Access

The entire course will be offered through the HISD learning platform the H.U.B. This is a free web-based program that is available on the computer. Every single assignment and material required for the class will be available on this platform. Additionally, all due dates for assignments will be posted there. As a result, students are responsible for keeping up with all of their upcoming due dates and assignments. Students will access the synchronous component of their course in Microsoft TEAMS. All submissions unless otherwise stated will be made on the H.U.B. There is no excuse for a student failing to submit an assignment by the assigned deadline.

Ongoing Objectives

- This high school civics course provides students with information about American government and it equips students to understand, analyze, and

apply political information. In a process like that followed by political scientists, a close analysis of quantitative and qualitative sources and reaches its conclusion when evidence is used effectively to support an argument about political principles.

- At the end of the course students should be able to articulate their argument and provide supporting evidence in any scenario.

Grading Scale/Structure

50%--Quizzes/Class Assignments

35%--Tests/Assessments, Projects

15%--H.W./Participation, Exit Tickets

Daily Required Materials

Laptop

Pen/Pencil

Notebook

Virtual Classroom Expectations

- Patience and Flexibility
- Start and end on time
- Mute microphone when you are not talking
- Dress appropriately
- Be aware of your surroundings if camera is turned on
- Respect everyone's point of view
- Use the "raise your hand" function if you have a question
- Use the chat box to ask and respond to questions
- Stay present and engaged
- Maintain a safe space

Student Expectations

- will respect all students and I expect the same respect in return. This means no profanity, or explicit behavior will be tolerated.
- Students will be expected to participate in class. It is okay to have wrong answers. It is okay to ask questions for clarification. It is okay to ask for more time, however, all students are expected to participate.
- Talking will not be permitted when the teacher is in the classroom and talking. There will be plenty of time for collaborative group work in which talking will be permitted. If you are talking, I expect it to be related to the course.

- Students are expected to submit original work on all assignments. Cheating of any sort is unacceptable and will result in a zero for the assignment, quiz or test in which the student was caught cheating.

Unit Overviews

Unit One: Foundations and Principles of U.S Government

This is an introduction to United States Government and Politics. It uses the concepts of political systems, political theories, and principles of government to review the historical foundations of American democracy, to explore the fundamentals of constitutionalism, and to understand basic principles upon which democracies stand.

Unit Two: Democracy in Action: The People

This unit covers the conceptual lens of citizens' rights and responsibilities to establish the importance of civic responsibility, explore methods of political action, and examine how public opinion is transformed into political power.

Unit Three: The Institutions of Government: The Legislative Branch

This unit examines the concept of legislative power by focusing on the functions and structure of the national, state, and local legislative bodies. At the national level, students analyze the development and implementation of domestic policy.

Unit Four: The Institutions of Government: The Executive Branch

This unit focuses on the executive branch by examining the functions and structure of the executive at the national, state, and local level. At the national level, students analyze the development and implementation of foreign policy.

Unit Five: The Institutions of Government: The Judicial Branch

This unit examines the concept of judicial power by exploring the functions and structure of the national, state, and local judiciary. This unit also teaches students the impact of court decisions on American citizens and society.

Unit Five: Civil Liberties & The Bill of Rights

This unit examines the concepts individual rights, responsibilities, and freedoms provided and protected by the Bill of Rights.

