Syllabus: American Government/Civics

Mr. Freddie Odom

2024-2025

This course provides students with a basic foundation in the study of U.S. Government and the rights, responsibilities, and duties of American citizenship. It has six sections:

Foundations of Government, the Constitution (and civil rights and liberties), Federalism, the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch. This year, there will also be a career/CTAE component that will allow everyone to get an extra elective credit (Take one class, get two credits.) We'll have more information on that by the spring semester.

The final will be based on the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization test that people take to become citizens of the United States. You can study using the USCIS Civics Test Study Tools app or website.

Texts/resources: three-ring binder (required), textbook provided, tests via Quizstar.

Google classroom: You will be automatically added to a Google classroom for this class. To join, go to your school Gmail account and find the invitation.

Click Here for classroom rules/procedures

We practice *restorative discipline* (i.e. the focus is more on making amends/correcting mistakes than punishing evildoers.) However, if punishment is needed:
Step 1: Verbal Warning
Step 2: Written Warning (to parents)
Step 3: Second Parent Contact
Step 4: Detention
Step 5: Exile

Parents will be notified by text at each step, as time permits.

Grading policy:

Student work for each week will be averaged (or one assignment chosen) for ***one grade per week*** (unless the administration requires more.) Therefore, students should expect to have 8-10 grades each 9 weeks depending on exams and holidays. If you are absent, you have 5 days to make up work (per the *Student Handbook.)* Any cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic grade of zero.

Extra Credit:

In history classes, we learn from past mistakes so we are not "doomed to repeat them." If you decide not to do an assignment, I respect your decision. Make sure you are making informed decisions and know how it will affect your sports eligibility, GPA, etc. ahead of time. There will be no extra credit if you didn't get your first credit, and do not come asking me to make up something the last week of class.

Occasionally there will be a special speaker related to a topic we're studying at ABAC or somewhere close by. If I decide to give extra credit for attending those sessions or doing book reports, I'll let you know.

End of Course Assessment/Final Exam/ 9 Weeks Exam	10%
Formative Assessment (Daily Grades, quizzes, homework, labs, etc.)	45%
Summative Assessment (unit tests, major essays, projects, etc.)	45%

[Note that while all daily grades and tests count the same according to current policy, there are usually few test grades, making each test count a little more. Develop good habits and you'll be ok. Develop bad ones and you are doomed!]