CP American Government Mr. Borneman

Oxnard High School Fall 2015 - Spring 2016

e-mail: bornemania@gmail.com Office Hours M – Th 3:00 – 3:30

**Class Expectations and Contract**

**Purpose:** This course is designed to expand students’ civic and political awareness with an emphasis on both historical and current significance of government at all levels of society. Grades are based on the following approximate percentages: Quizzes (50%), tests (25%), homework and projects (25%). This course satisfies the Grade 12 California State Social Science Standards.

**Materials:** Students will be issued Magruder’s American Government (Pearson-Prentice Hall edition). 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 **George Orwell’s novel, 1984**.

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** – Written work must be in blue or black ink (or dark pencil), or occasionally typewritten. Notes for quizzes and tests must be handwritten. Some homework may be typewritten (it may receive extra credit). 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. Tests missed due to absences are made up immediately the day of return.

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. Class begins when the bell rings and ends when the teacher says it does.

**Student-Generated Rules**: Students will generate many of the rules in class in addition to the rules outlined above. These student-adopted rules will be considered binding. They 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 regularly. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY THAT THEIR GRADE IS ACCURATE.

**Final Exam**: The 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: