**AP Macroeconomics and U.S. Government - Class Expectations**

CP Integrated Economics and Government Mr. Borneman

Oxnard High School Fall-Spring 2020-2021

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**Purpose:** This experimental four-quarter 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 specifically designed to serve as a **base** for the AP US Government Exam, and is also intended as an entry-level UC Philosophy Course. 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 (in 2019) for both US Government and Macro Economics. *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:** Students will be issued **Magruder’s American Government** (Pearson-Prentice Hall edition). Most readings will be primary-source materials. Students are encouraged to have **writing implements** and **paper** for notes and some projects. **Media access** to current events, including **internet access** and **printing capability** will be *required*. Students will form study groups at the beginning of each quarter, in case of absences or a need to do further study. Students will also be required to have printed or annotatable copies of **George Orwell’s novel, 1984** for the second quarter of the two-quarter course).

**Books:** Students will also be required to have access to five of the following books:

*First quarter* – (1 of the following): Par Lagerqvist’s The Dwarf, T.H. White’s The Book of Merlyn or Voltaire’s Candide (Norton Critical Edition *recommended*, Robert Adams, trans.)

*Second quarter -*  Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s The Social Contract (Penguin Edition, Cranston, trans. *required*)

*Third quarter*  – (1 of the following) Margaret Atwood’s Oryx and Crake or The Year of the Flood, or Octavia Butler’s Parable of the Sower, or Claire Vaye Watkins Gold Fame Citrus, or James Bradley’s Clade.

*Also Third quarter*, available free, on-line: Michel Serres’ The Natural Contract <https://monoskop.org/images/d/d0/Serres_Michel_The_Natural_Contract.pdf>

(but having the printed book is nicer!)

*Fourth quarter*: George Orwell’s novel, 1984.

*All Year* - The latest edition of the McGraw Hill 5 Steps to a 5: AP Government & Politics is **strongly recommended**, especially for those who will take the AP Exam.

**Class Rules:**

1. **Respect for People** – students must show respect for other students, the teacher, administrators, substitutes, guests, and any others in class. Cheating is a form of disrespect towards the entire class. Most importantly students must respect themselves and their ideas.

2. **Respect for Privacy** – students must show respect for the privacy of others in the class. (No unauthorized recording allowed; no uninvited participants allowed.)

3. **Submitted Work** – Almost all work for this course will be submitted through Canvas. Exceptions, if any, will be explained by the teacher.

4. **Preparation** – Students are expected to come to Zoom sessions prepared, having completed their readings and assignments. Most quizzes will begin just before the Zoom session begins.

5. **Class Time** – Missed quizzes (due to tardies or absences – excused or unexcused) cannot be made up except by Friday sessions. 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 at an arranged time. If a parallel course and Zoom session is offered, students may attend it in lieu of the regularly scheduled course.

6. **Communication** – Outside of Zoom sessions, the primary form of communication will be carried out through e-mail. Out of mutual respect for each other, the expectation of having read e-mails (barring an emergency) is approximately at least once every 48 hours or, on weekends, 72 hours.

7. **Technology** – Students will be responsible for learning the *basics* of Zoom, Canvas, Synergy, and e-mail.

8. **Patience** – Have patience with yourself and each other in all of this. Distance Learning is still new for all of us. Mistakes will happen, but we can make it work out!

**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.

**Unit Exams and Papers**:

Over the course of the year there may be two required papers: a Winter Break Paper (graded primarily on the basis of proper citation and form, and which may not get included in the grade until 3rd quarter), and a post-AP Exam Cli-Fi and Philosophy paper which will be graded on the basis of quality of analysis. Each paper is worth approximately 100 points.

There will also be several two-day Unit tests, all based on quotations which students must associate with various philosophers we have studied on the first day and then must make an oral argument justifying their position on the second day. Each unit test is worth approximately 60/50 points (thus each has built-in extra-credit). These tests are cumulative and can reference material going back to the very first Unit in class. Each test is in a slightly different format than the previous unit test.

**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 **grades are not considered statistically “valid” until after the first exam each quarter mid-term has been entered**.

**Signatures of Acceptance will be registered with Canvas**