POLICIES AND COURSE OUTLINE: GOV’T and ECON

Recommended Materials for this course: Three ring binder (1”), preferably with pockets

 Notebook paper

 Regular Composition book

 Black pen, Blue pen, Red pen, and pencil(s)

 Flash drive/thumb drive/portable USB storage device

Our government is unique, visionary, and vibrant – yet fragile. It is the intention of this class to inform each student about the history of our great Republic and of the democratic principles upon which it is founded. As a result, I hope that each one will gain a new respect and take up the responsibility of meaningful citizenship in this country. Throughout this course, we also will be exploring the wonderful world of economics – your choices and consequences, as it relates to resources, buying and selling, and life in general. Your decisions, the decisions of those who control resources, and the aggregate decision making of all the people has a significant impact upon your life, your country, and the world.

TEXTBOOKS and COURSE MATERIALS - We will be using the *McGraw-Hill Government* and *Economics* books adopted by LCS and Leon H.S. and covering the Standards set out by DOE for this course…..and a few other things along the way. We will be using both textbooks’ web platforms as well as some Dave Ramsey Personal Finance materials. We DO NOT have books to check out to every student for continuous home use unless special circumstances are present; we have a class set for each teacher with some additional books that can be checked out daily as needed. This will place heavier emphasis on access and use of electronic resources for the course.

HOMEWORK – you will be assigned homework on a regular basis, and a lot of it will be web-based. Homework is to be completed according to the time frame given with each assignment and turned in on time. You are being graded for accuracy, as well as completion.

PROJECTS – you will be assigned projects in this class. They range in lengths of time from months to a couple of days. You will be working alone, in pairs, and in groups. There will be ample class time allotted for project work, however, work will need to be done outside of class in order to submit quality products.

FOLDERS – you should keep a folder for this class with all course notes and written work. It will not be graded, however, when it comes time to study for tests and exams, or if you wish to confirm an assignment grade that is in question, you will need that information in your folder. You will keep the notes, and all handouts, graded/returned class work, homework, quizzes, tests, etc., in this folder.

TESTS – these will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, listing, and matching questions, with some essays every now and then. The information will come from your notes, your textbook assignments, and class work.

QUESTION OF THE DAY (QOTD): these will be recorded in your QOTD Journal (the composition book you are required to have). Most days in class you will have a question, series of questions, or some other activity on the board when you arrive. You should immediately begin working on this assignment, and several students will be selected to read their answers aloud. At the end of class we may refer back to this and jot some more info down. You will receive a grade for these assignments based on your participation, completion, and/or accuracy.

PREPAREDNESS – Is vital to your success. Not having the required materials will result in your inability to complete the assignments and appropriate activities. This will negatively affect your ability to learn and earn acceptable grades. The teacher and other students are NOT to be expected to provide for your every need. Each person reserves the right to say “No” when you arrive unprepared. You do NOT have the right to demand, although in an emergency you may count it a privilege to request, assistance with class materials occasionally.

# CLASS RULES

BE PUNCTUAL – BE PREPARED – BE POLITE – BE PRODUCTIVE

**GRADING SYSTEM**

You will be graded based on your accurate completion of both class and homework assignments, learning objectives met and proved by test scores, performance on alternative assessments such as projects, and participation through Question Of The Day and other activities.

 Assessments (Tests/quizzes/some projects) = 70%

 Preview/Review Assignments (classwork/homework) = 22%

 Participation (QOTD/activities/completion) = 8%

 *TOTAL = 100%*

Extra Credit: Is just that…..extra. In order to earn it you must go above and beyond the requirements of the course. Opportunities to earn it will not be provided in response to whining, complaining, or lack of individual grade achievement. It will be allocated based on instructional goals and incentives for learning as determined by the teacher.

# MAKE-UP WORK

 *Make-up* work will be completed in accordance with the Leon County School Board policy. Make-up TESTS will be completed outside of regular class time. Late Work does not assist you in achieving your learning outcomes on schedule. From time to time it may be accepted, but it will be noted and received on a case-by-case basis. LATE is defined as any time after the teacher has indicated that it is due.

# TARDY POLICY

Don’t Be Tardy. I keep track. They add up and will be turned in to attendance at the appropriate time.

# DISCIPLINE POLICY

The instructor reserves the right to use any and all forms of discipline available, depending on the circumstances (including, but not limited to: detentions, referrals, extra writing assignments, scoldings, and general disdain). I trust that I will not have to exhaust the list of possibilities with anyone, although it has happened before.

**CELL PHONES**

Sometimes I will tell you to use your phones for an assignment. Other than that, the answer is NO…talking, ringing, texting, listening to music, taking pictures, sharing pictures, accessing video or internet, checking the time, checking your messages, etc. If you feel there is a valid academic purpose for using your phone, you may ask permission and each case will be determined on its own merits. Do not assume.

**HATS and OTHER DRESS CODE ITEMS**

The school dress code will be enforced. This classroom is a hat-free zone unless it is a necessary part of a special school event or holiday. The teacher shall remain the classroom authority on these matters.

**Teacher Web Page**

The lesson plans, powerpoint note outlines, and necessary handouts/paperwork can be found on the Class Notebook on Class Link. You can access this by going to the Leon High School homepage, logging in to Class Link, and opening your class notebook. I’m not a super whiz at this website stuff and I’m not as savvy as some other teachers. I don’t run my life on a website. Please use my site with this in mind. If something is missing or inaccessible, please feel free to let me know and I’ll address it then. \*\**YOUR BEST SOURCE OF INFORMATION?? BE IN CLASS EACH DAY AND PAY ATTN ☺☺\*\**

*You can contact Mr. Stewart via email at* *stewartj@leonschools.net* *or phone 617-5700. 7th period is my planning period. However, most days I am in my room at lunch and either before or after school, or both. Students needing assistance should take the initiative to get the help they need….and I am happy to oblige.* ☺