

American Government – Fall 2015

Mr. Matthew VanEngen
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Plan Period: 2

Room 112
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Course Information:

This is a two-semester course that will take an in depth look at the American landscape from post civil war reconstruction to the present day. After taking this class students will have acquired factual knowledge to be able to deal critically with the issues that the United States has dealt with throughout its history. Students will also be able to analyze historical materials and write essays through informed judgment and evidence where they are able to develop conclusions.

Method of Instruction:

A variety of instruction methods will be used including lecture, discussion (active learning), debates, text readings, quizzes, exams, and group/individual projects and activities. Current events will also be a part of the class and will be conducted at the teacher's discretion. Your current event will be related to class material only! No sports or entertainment! Exams will take place usually at the end of every unit, which will be about every 5-6 weeks. Quizzes will take place about every 1-2 weeks and will often be done at the end of every chapter and/or section.

Tentative Course Topics/Units and Dates:

Migration and Industrialization	5 weeks
Modern America Emerges	5 weeks
1920's and the Great Depression	6 weeks
WWII and its Aftermath	7 weeks
Living with Great Turmoil	7 weeks
Passage to a New Century	5 weeks

Textbook and Required Supplies:

- Textbook: *The Americans*
- Chromebook
- Pen or Pencil and Paper

Grading:

- Grading Scale:
 - 94 – 100 = A 92 – 93 = B+ 86 – 91 = B 84 – 85 = C+ 78 – 83 = C 76 – 77 = D+
 - 70 – 75 = D 60 – 69 = F
- Weighing of Course Components
 - Notebook
 - You are required to keep a notebook for this class. We will take notes regularly. You will turn in these notebooks for points. There will also be a variety of activities that will go in your notebooks. Due dates will be announced. We will be using a program on your iPad to accomplish this task.
 - Quizzes/Exams
 - Quizzes will be given periodically throughout a unit, they may be announced or unannounced so make sure you are keeping up with the class work. Exams will be given at the end of every unit. They will be announced at least a week ahead of time. Test dates are set in stone regardless of what happens.

- Projects/Activities
 - There will be a variety of group and independent projects throughout the year. The topics and requirements will be given for each project.

Course Component Specifics:

- Homework
 - There will be reading assignments, as well as additional homework assignments given in class. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Most homework assignments will be signed by the instructor to indicate they were finished on time. Late homework does not receive a signature. Most homework assignments will go in your notebook.
- Academic Dishonesty
 - Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on a class assignment will receive a zero on that assignment. If you are suspected of cheating/plagiarism you will receive an F until it is determined whether the student has erred.
- Due Dates
 - Each assignment will be given a due date based upon its difficulty. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Late assignments will be accepted within 24 hours of the due date. The instructor reserves the right to reduce the grade on a late assignment by as much as 40%. If you have an excused absence on the due date of an assignment you will have two days after you return to make up your work. Students will be notified of due dates in class. If you are gone for a school activity it will be due **before** you leave.

Classroom Rules and Code of Conduct:

- Respect others, their property, and the environment
- Come to class on time and prepared
- Participate in class activities
- Allow Mr. Van to teach and other students to learn
- Follow the dress code in your student handbook, it **will** be enforced
- No cell phones, keep your cell phones turned off or on silent and out of site
 - If you are caught with your cell phone out, it will be put on Mr. Van's desk
- Chromebook's will be used for school purposes only and at the teachers discretion
 - Violations of the acceptable use policy will result in a referral to PRESS
- **iPod's** will be used **only** at the teachers discretion (they **will not** be used during lectures)
- ATTENDANCE
 - Absences:
 - You should attend all classes if possible. If you miss a day it is your responsibility to obtain the missing assignments. If your absence is excused you will have two days after you return to make up your work. If you are gone for a school activity it will be due **before** you leave.
 - Tardies:
 - You are tardy if you are not in the room when the bell rings.

Consequences for Violating the Rules:

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: Meeting with Mr. Van in the hall
- Third offense: Referred to administration

