

Reading- Bring the textbook to class each day. It is a primary source of class work. A portion of each exam will be taken directly from questions and vocabulary in the text material. We will also be involved in additional non-fiction articles and primary source documents.

Group Work- As a class, we will work together on a variety of class work and projects. We will participate in a semester-long Mock Congress simulation that will count for 25% of your semester grade.

Speaking- Speaking to the class will be an ongoing part of our classwork. From informal classroom responses to more formal group presentations speaking will be integral to the class. As a social sciences core class, we will participate in a Public Speaking Tuesday program. The Mock Congress simulation contains significant public speaking assignments.

Writing- Writing will account for a large portion of our class work. Typing is the preferred method of written work (we will be using turnitin.com), but handwritten work is accepted-subject to legibility. All written work that is turned in as a part of an assignment must be in blue or black ink, with no frayed edges on the paper. All typed work must be double-spaced, using 12 point font of either Times New Roman or Garamond.

Listening- Lectures will be a regular part of our class work. By listening attentively, you will hear what I consider to be important in each section. This will be an advantage to you when you return to the textbook to continue studying.

Assignments- Graded work may be assigned as stand alone work, or as Unit work. Stand alone work will have a specific due date, Unit work is collected in a packet at the end of the textbook unit. All work must include the student's name and period number.

Conduct/Rules- All state, district and school rules will be enforced in my classroom. Water is the only beverage allowed in class, no food consumed during class. Desks are to be cleared of everything except your current work. Electronics are to be turned off, and put away unless I give you specific approval for their use. The most important rule in my class is to 'Respect the Classroom Community'. Students are expected to do nothing to interfere with other student's opportunity to learn.

Missed Tests/Quizzes- If you miss a test/quiz (even if it is an excused absence), you will receive 50% credit until it is replaced by another test score. Quizzes and chapter tests can be replaced by unit tests. Unit tests can only be replaced by the class final.

Extra Credit- There is very little opportunity for extra credit in this class.

Technology- If you have your own device, bring it. Laptops are always welcome. Smartphones are excellent academic tools when used appropriately. You may use them with my prior permission.

Grading Policy- Daily work assignments generate 1 point. Overnight homework assignments generate 3 points. Extended homework assignments and quizzes are worth 5 points, Chapter tests are worth 10 points. Unit tests and extended project work are worth 25 points. This class generates approximately 100 points per quarter outside of the Mock Congress simulation.

Grading Scale- 100-90% A, 89.9-80% B, 79.9-70% C, 69.9-60% D, 59.9% and below F.

Late Work- Excused late work is accepted without penalty. Unexcused late work is accepted, with maximum points available declining 10% each day beyond your due date.

Materials- Pencils and blue/black pens are acceptable for assigned work. Please do not hand in work that has been torn from a spiral-bound notebook. Typed work is preferred.