

Keystone Oaks High School

Course Syllabus: Honors Government & Economics

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Class Wikispace: <http://honorsgovecon.wikispaces.com>

Course Description

This course will provide the student with advanced knowledge regarding the American political and economic system and the basic structure of the American Government. The primary objective is to help each individual make intelligent decisions as a citizen and consumer in today's society. Skills related to this objective will be stressed, along with factual knowledge and an emphasis on current topics. Problem solving, critical thinking activities, and numerous formal and informal writing opportunities will be an integral part of the course. Evaluation will be based on examinations, quizzes, homework, quarterly projects, notebook, and participation.

District Mission Statement: To provide a safe learning environment that prepares critical thinkers to become responsible and productive members of society.

Course Materials:

The textbooks listed below will be issued to each student. Students are responsible for the condition and location of their textbook.

Fraga, Luis Ricardo. **United States Government: Principles in Practice**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co,

Orlando, FL, 2012.

Economics: Concepts and Choices. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co.

Orlando, FL, 2011

Other materials the student will be expected to have include:

- A notebook (Everyday)
- A writing utensil
- A folder (for returned work)
- Textbook (Everyday)

Learning Objectives:

Skill Objectives: This 10th grade course is taught in 2 distinct parts; each one a semester in length. Although the students will receive one final grade, each course has separate requirements and explores different subject matter. However, the overall skill development will be similar and content, at times, will be interrelated. Skill objectives include:

- Analyzing topics by critical reading and by asking appropriate questions

- Using historical factual, and current information to develop a point of view
- Supporting an opinion by writing an issue paper based on good evidence
- Interpreting narrative and non-narrative data
- Drawing inferences from selected readings
- Relating subject discussions in class to current events and issues
- Interpreting graphs, charts, cartoons, newspaper columns, editorials, etc.
- Writing essays which clearly explain and present information in a logical and organized manner
- Presenting an oral argument in a debate atmosphere
- Interpreting visuals such as videos viewed in class and incorporating and understanding those concepts and how they relate to the class curriculum

Content Objectives: By unit of Study (Government)

- Understand the origins of our American democracy
- Cite contributions of past civilizations- Great Britain, Rome, and Greece
- Analyze the Declaration of Independence
- Distinguish between the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution
- Constitutional Underpinnings (Federalism, Separation of Powers, Theories of Democratic Government)
- Inquire into the Constitutional idea of individual rights (Bill of Rights)
- Understand the principle of "Checks and Balances"
- List and identify the amendment process and current amendments
- Examine the role of interest groups
- Analyze political parties, interest groups, and the mass media
- Political Beliefs and Behaviors: How they are formed, how they evolve, and how transmitted
- Understand the nomination and election processes (campaign finance, primaries, and general elections)
- Distinguish between the Constitutional role of Congress and its actual day-to-day workings
- Understand the organization and powers of each branch of National Government Institutions (Congress, Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts)

Content Objectives: By unit of Study (**Economics**)

- Distinguish among economic systems which exist in the world
- Define economics in terms of scarcity and problem solving
- List and be able to apply the four factors of production
- Examine the proper role of government in the U.S. Market System
- Differentiate the structures and levels of competition in the U.S. Market System
- Describe the differences among the forms of business operations
- Distinguish between stocks and bonds
- Analyze supply and demand and graph supply and demand problems
- Graph price theory problems
- Calculate various types of cost problems
- Apply principles of sound personal finance, including the benefit of compound interest
- Inquire into the nature and role of the Federal Reserve System and its effects on banking
- Participate in a "**Stock Market Game**" simulation- Internet based

Class Rules and Policies:

- 1) **Attendance issues will be handled in a consistent fashion with the district's standards.** You are expected to report to class on time unless you have a valid, signed excuse (Remember: The "90% Rule")
- 2) **Class cuts will be handled as they arise.** No exceptions!! You will receive a referral each time you cut. **You will receive a 0% any work missed during a cut, including tests/ quizzes.** Multiple cuts may result in withdrawal from the course (w/out credit)
- 3) **Swearing is prohibited.** There is no place for profanity within a non-threatening classroom environment. Be Careful! **General rule- If you think it might be inappropriate, then don't say it! Consequences will be handled through the instructors' discretion.**
- 4) Students are **not permitted to bring food and drink into the classroom** (Without medical reason)
- 5) All students will **respect each other, their teacher, and the property of the school and others.**

6) General class rules: Stay seated, be quiet and listen, raise your hand to speak (don't blurt out!!)

7) Personal use of cell phones will be strictly prohibited! Confiscation and fines could be issued for noncompliance. There may be educational uses for cell phones upon teacher discretion but are not to be on desks or used for other personal reasons.

8) The bell does not dismiss you from class, the instructor dismisses you from class. (Do not gather by the door or stand on "the porch")

Homework:

Homework will likely be assigned an average of 2 or 3 times during the week. The completion of homework is highly recommended to ensure a quality grade. Will there be homework 2 or 3 times EVERY SINGLE WEEK? No, it is an average.

1) **1st day late: You may receive up to 50%** of possible points. No credit will be given if assignment is not turned in beyond one day late.

2) **Students who are absent (Excused) will have a reasonable amount of time to turn in missed work**, this is my discretion and is related to the extent of the absences.

Grading Procedures:

The following grading scale will be used to assign quarterly and yearly letter grades:

A: 90%-100%

D: 60%-69%

B: 80%-89%

F: 59% and below

C: 70%-79%

- **A decimal value of .5 or greater will be rounded up to the next numerical value.**

The student's final quarterly grades will be a combination of the percentages obtained in various types of assessment. The following weights will be used to calculate this grade.

Unit Exams: 40%

In-Class Assignments/ Projects: 20%

Quizzes: 15%

Homework: 15%

Class Participation/ Notebook: 10%

This syllabus is provided to students taking Honors Government and Economics and their parents as a statement of expected outcomes. This planned course overview is intended to give students an understanding of course objectives but is not an exhaustive list of everything covered.

Please indicate that you have read over and understand this syllabus by signing below, detach and have your son/ daughter return to class. Thank You.

Date: _____

Student: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)

Parent: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)