

Government and Politics Syllabus

1st Semester 2014-2015

Instructor: Mr. Schlegelmilch

Email Address: jschleg@lps.org

Website Address: wp.lps.org/jschleg

The goals of this course are to develop a deeper understanding of the political history of our nation, the way our government works, and how it affects the way our world is shaped today. This is a graduation requirement, so it is critical to all of you to find a way to pass the class! You must also complete 20 hours of community service work to graduate, more on this later.

What are we going to study?

Here are the units of study: each will be about 9 weeks total.

Unit 1: Why do we have government? Foundations, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.

Unit 2: The role of the citizen in government: political beliefs, groups, and the interaction between them and the government agencies.

How will you be graded?

You will be graded on many things. All of the following could be a part of the grade:

Tests, quizzes, projects, notes, current events, participation, daily assignments, group work, and more could be a part of the grade.

I do not grade a notebook specifically, but in your notebook will be class notes (which I reserve the right to grade) and also potential journal entries (which WILL be graded). You are expected to be able to keep the entries for the entire semester to be turned in at the end of the semester for a grade.

Is attendance important?

YES. I keep track of attendance. If you have truancy issues, I will follow the due process procedures of the school, and you may be removed from class. Three trancies can get you removed from the class. You have NO room for error if you want to graduate on time!

-Remember, this is a GRADUATION REQUIREMENT, so be here, and do a good job, so you can take care of this requirement! If you want to graduate, be here!

What will be doing in the class?

We will have a mix of lecture, group work, videos (not many in GoPo), projects, and current events that will combine to all be a part of the class. I will base our tests around the notes and the textbook.

Class Expectations and Rules:

- *Any verbal behavior, clothing, or physical behavior directed at others is unacceptable and is grounds for referral to your administrator.
- *Insulting or intimidating others based on gender, religion, ethnicity, physical or mental ability is unacceptable and is grounds for referral to your administrator.
- *You are expected to be on time for class. I will follow the school due process if you have issues being to class on time.
- *You are expected to come to class every day, unless you are excused. Poor attendance makes it very difficult to have a good grade in any class. I will follow the school due process procedures for trancies.
- *Please bring your textbook, notebook, and pen or pencil to class every day unless I tell you the day before you do not need to.
- *Come to class with a positive attitude! You are not in here very long each day, so it's really not that big of a deal. I try not to have much in the way of homework, so there is really very little to complain about!
- *When others are talking about class, or when I am ready to speak to you, please show the respect that each person deserves, and listen, or at least be quiet while others are speaking! At this point in your school careers, you should be able to make this happen. Again, I do not ask for too much, but please respect others (including me) while we are talking.
- *Keep cell phones OUT OF SIGHT! I am warn you to put the phone away for good if I catch you once, but if you do it again, I will take the phone. I don't care who is texting you, if you are having daily phone issues, I will take the phone away that day until it is not a nuisance item.
- *As for ipods, a lot of you bring them. Do not have them out while I am lecturing. If we are working on an assignment in class, I might tell you that you can have them, but otherwise do not have them out. No headphones unless I give permission!

What about late work?

I want you to do your work, even if it is late. There will be points taken off after one, two, or three days, depending on how late an assignment is. After three days, if the assignment is not done, you can still turn it in, but only for a minimum passing grade, or 60%. That is much better than a zero! If you are truant the day of ANY graded assignment, the highest grade you will receive will be a 60%.

What is the grade scale?

I already explained what is graded. Any extra credit (there is not much) will also go into the grade. It is a cumulative point scale. Tests, quizzes, and projects will make up most of the grade. Daily work, notes, current events, participation, etc...will make up a smaller portion of the grade. Here is the scale:

A	90-100	B+	85-89	B	80-84	C+	75-79
C	70-74	D+	65-69	D	60-64	F	59.9-0

Tests, quizzes, and selected projects will be weighted for 80% of your grade, and the rest of the items I grade will make up the other 20%.

It is important that you keep up with the class. If you are gone, make up the notes, work, or whatever you need to do. I will work with you if you have an excused absence. You will have time to make up the work, but it has to be a reasonable amount of time, not unlimited. If you do not understand concepts of the class, please ask for help! I don't understand should never be a reason you do not do well.

What about plagiarism?

Plagiarism: "Academic integrity is a principal value at LSE, and honest authorship is a demonstration of that integrity. Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately. Dishonest authorship, known as plagiarism, is a form of cheating and a form of either lying or stealing or both".

Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging its source.

Plagiarism is unacceptable in our classes and is considered a serious offense. Each incidence of plagiarism is subject to review and consideration by the instructor and is subject to a range of penalties including but not limited to:

1. Parent/Administrator notification
2. Redoing the work with reduction of credit
3. Failing the assignment

A student who knowingly allows another student to plagiarize his or her work is just as guilty as the student who cheats, and may be subject to the same penalties.

GoPo Community Service Hours

All LPS seniors must complete 20 hours of approved community service. You must not only pass the class, but complete the hours and write a reflection paper to be turned in along with your hours log sheets and evaluation to graduate.

****I am the one that approves your hours! If you have a question, ask me!**

-You can find hundreds of opportunities at **volunteerpartners.org** for things already approved. You can also ask me individually. If something sounds “meaningful” or “beneficial” to the community, then chances are I will approve it.

You must write a 300-500 word reflection paper and turn it in with your hours for me to sign off that your hours are done. We will spend class time discussing your experiences.

In the paper, you must include the following:

-a description of the activity:

-supervisor name

- description of the activity

-why you chose to complete this type of activity

-what you learned by doing this activity

-a description of how this service benefitted others.

-explain how your service helped other people.

-give an example of how your service helped other people.

-or, list favorite memories from your experience.

Due date for hours to completed:

FIRST SEMESTER: Friday, December 12, 2014

****AGAIN, YOU CANNOT GRADUATE WITHOUT DOING THE HOURS AND THE PAPER!!! YOU ALSO MUST PASS THE CLASS!**

Any other questions?

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE RULES AND EXPECTATIONS, AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR MEANING AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES. PLEASE SIGN BY FRIDAY.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ DATE _____