

Instructor: Andrew Montoya

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E-mail: amontoya3@lcps.k12.nm.usOnline Grade Book: <http://parentvue.lcps.k12.nm.us/>Class Website: www.mrmontoyasclass.net & www.lcps.blackboard.com

Tutoring Available: every morning, most lunches, and after school by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT: United States Government: *Democracy in Action. 2003 edition***Course Description**

Welcome to your Honors Principles of Democracy course! This course is similar in design and curriculum to Principles of Democracy but that is where the similarities end. Honors Principles of Democracy will take a seminar approach towards the teaching and learning and will rely heavily on college ready classroom skills. In this course students will synthesize and evaluate information and concepts from multiple sources, to create their own understanding of the impact of human decision making within our government. This Course combines a study of the structure of national, state, and local U.S. government with an overview of the principles of market economics and citizenship. Course content will also include contemporary U.S. issues. The emphasized purpose of Principles of Democracy is to prepare students to perform effectively within their community as informed citizens.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

- Higher Level Thinking Skills
- Technology Integration
- Professionalism
- Communication Skills (verbal & written)
- Transformative Thinking

Curriculum Outline (Tentative)**August 12th - October 14th:** Introduction to Government and Foundations of American Government**October 15th – December 18th:** The U.S. Constitution and the 3 Branches of U.S. Government**January 11th – March 11th:** Civil Liberties, Civil Rights and Political Parties and Elections**March 21st – May 13th:** Principles of the Free Market and Citizenship**Classroom Rules****SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

1. Flash Drive with sufficient memory capacity (minimum of 1 gigabyte preferred)
2. Blue and/or black pens
3. Spiral Notebook for this class ONLY
4. Access to computer and internet

STUDENT ASSISTANCE: If you are in need of extra help during the semester, I am in my classroom every morning before school as well as during lunch. I will also be available afterschool by appointment only if you need additional assistance and/or computer access.

CHEATING and/or PLAGIARISM: All class work must be your own. The faculty and administration do not approve of cheating or plagiarism in any form. If a student is caught cheating, the student will receive

a zero for the assignment and a parent conference may be held. The student may lose credit and may be removed from class.

Classroom Conduct Policy:

- Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate manners, conduct, and professionalism including but not limited to; (a) punctuality, (b) being prepared for class discussions and presentations, (c) appropriate interactions with classmates and instructor, and (d) complying with **all** due dates.

List of Possible Consequences

Verbal warning in class, Revised seating arrangements, Student/teacher conferences, Parent guardian contacts, Detention referral, Referrals to school administration, ISS (In School Suspension) OSS (Out of school Suspension), Expulsion

FOOD/DRINKS:

Respect the environment around you and use the designated recycle bin and trash receptacles. We will be using computers, iPads and other various forms of technology in this class and all drinks and food must be away from the equipment to ensure safekeeping and minimize accidents. .

CELL PHONES/I-Pods etc.:

Cell phones are to be turned off during instruction unless class activity involves the use of your phone. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action that may result in loss of privilege.

Daily Work Expectations

Class lectures, group discussions, online activities and numerous amounts of supplementary activities will provide information and details on Principles of Democracy Curriculum throughout the duration of the 2015-2016 school year. Students will be required to actively participate in multiple learning tasks throughout the school year. We will be using both primary and secondary resources to enhance the topics discussed in class as well as a number of current affair topics, some of which controversial in nature, so respect amongst each other and professionalism is a must every class period.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

You only have 4 absences, excused or unexcused per semester. Las Cruces Public School District has implemented an attendance policy that requires students to attend 90% of the time in order to earn credit for the course. Students must provide appropriate paperwork within 3 days of the absence. Once the absence has been verified the student may make-up any work. If the student's absence is not verified, a zero will remain in the grade book.

MAKE-UP WORK: Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. The student and teacher will determine deadlines for make-up work. Tests must be made up within two weeks.

Grading

Your grade will be based on class participation, homework, essays, online work, written work, reports, presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests. It is very important that you turn your work in on time.

Each semester final grade will be as follows:

1st nine weeks 40% of final grade 2nd nine weeks 40% of final grade
Comprehensive final exam 20% of final grade

Please Note: This syllabus is a guideline for instruction, changes may occur at the instructor's discretion when deemed appropriate for the enhancement of student learning.
