

El Segundo High School

2013
12th Grade Political Behavior
Room K209

Instructor: Marcos Bolanos

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Office Hours: by appointment (*making the appointment via email is best*)

Website: www.mrbolanos.weebly.com

Course Overview

Students in grade twelve pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the *Federalist Papers*. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

Course Objectives

1. Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.
2. Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.
3. Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society
4. Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.
5. Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.
6. Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.
7. Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.
8. Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.
9. Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.

Textbook and other materials

Holt - American Government – Available on line at Mr. B's website

*****Other text will be distributed throughout the year.**

Course Requirements:

1. Homework
2. Projects
3. Attendance & Participation
4. Tests
5. Extra Credit (Assigned throughout the year)

Grading: The following grading scale will apply:

- A 100-90%
- B 89-80%
- C 79-70%
- D 69-60%
- F 59-0%

Late & Make-up Work

Late work is accepted on a case by case basis. However, in case of a legal/excused absence, assignments are due the day of return to class. There will be no make-up work for unexcused absences. If you know you will be out on a specific day, please notify the Mr. Bolanos in advance.

Tests/quizzes can only be made up with a legitimate/legal/excused absence. Tests/quizzes will be made up on the day of return.

Activity excuses from extracurricular activities is not a legal excuse. If you know you will miss class for sports, band, cheer, etc. Please contact me ahead of time for specific arrangements.

I understand that unforeseen circumstances and situations occur, so please contact me as soon as possible with any troubles.

Behavior Violating School Standards and Appropriate Sanctions

The school's Student Conduct Code should be adhered to at all times. My classroom rules on Dress code, behavior, plagiarism, electronic devices, and other forms of cheating strictly follow school guidelines. Exceptions will occur and I will handle each case specifically. Please read through the school rules and ensure you are fully aware of the consequences and repercussions of your actions.

As a class, we will create a list of guidelines to ensure each student feels comfortable inside of the classroom. Each student should enjoy coming to class and have a say in how the class should be run.

Please bring your textbook everyday unless otherwise instructed

The teacher reserves the right to make changes, additions, and/or deletions to the syllabus

Political Behavior Syllabus

I have read the syllabus and understand the goals and objectives of the class. I promise to come to class focused and prepared with all the necessary materials, assignments, and positive attitude.

Print Student Name _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Email address: I will email out to those who give me their information, large scale assignments and test dates as they come up throughout the semester. If you would like to be added to this email list please list those emails here:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____