

# US Government (12) Syllabus

Period 6 in Room 328  
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 Google Classroom Code: N/A

## Course Description

The course is designed to prepare students to be active and informed citizens. The students study and compare systems of government, with a focus on the US government. Students will gain a greater understanding of and respect for the purpose and operations of a national government. US Government students will explore the foundations of the government, structures of the US Government, current domestic/foreign affairs in America, introduction to comparative politics with a few case studies, and introduction to Japanese politics.

## What you need...

Textbook (United States Government)  
 Loose Leaf Paper & Chromebook



## How you'll be graded...

Minor 40%: HW, Bell Ringers, Quizzes, In-class activities, etc.  
 Major 60%: Papers, Discussions & Debates, DBQs, Unit Tests, Projects

Each assignment will be clearly identified as minor or major grade.

## Late Work Penalty

1 day - 10% of grade earned  
 2 days - 20% of grade earned  
 3 days - 30% of grade earned  
 4+ days - may not be accepted for credit

If there are situations that prevent students from submitting things on time (sickness, family issues, etc.), it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher.

I will be entering 0 into the gradebook to allow students to recognize which items are missing. Once submitted, your work will be evaluated with the late work penalty and you will be receiving a new grade.

## Class Expectations

Our class rules are simple and can be summarized in one word: **Respect**. In order that we can all enjoy and grow in our understanding together, we will try to communicate and collaborate with the qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control). I expect students not only to respect their teachers but also to respect their classmates, student body, OCSI community and the local community.

**Communication is also key in this classroom.** Without active communication, it will be hard for me to figure out whether I am going too fast or too slow with class content. As this is an AP class, I expect students to actively communicate and provide feedback so we can all thrive and grow not only in this subject but also as individuals.

## Arriving to Class

Students should be in their seats ready to go when the second bell rings. If students fail to be in the classroom prior to the second bell, they will be marked as tardy. Forty minute classes are shorter than usual class lengths, please respect your peers and teachers by being ready for class!

### **Chromebook Usage Policy**

Students are expected to bring their chromebooks to class. Most activities, including article readings, will be conducted on chromebooks. However, students should not use their chromebooks unless the teacher asks them to do so. Usage other than class content and approved times can result in warnings and/or tardies.

### **Cellphone, Food and Drinks**

Students are not allowed to use their phones during class. If students desire to use their phones for group projects (e.g. filming), students must discuss with the teacher. Students are not allowed to consume food or non-water beverages in class.

### **Plagiarism**

As written on the OCSI Handbook, academic integrity is crucial for your growth. Plagiarism is not only an offense to the original author but also a harm to your education. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, directly quoting without acknowledging the source (e.g., textbooks, primary and secondary sources, etc.), presenting an non-original idea as your own, copying each other's written assignments, etc. Students must acknowledge sources by using MLA Citation Format.

Students who are caught of any form of plagiarism will automatically receive a 0 on an assignment even if students unintentionally plagiarized, e.g. forgot to include in-text citations.

Students who admit to plagiarism can resubmit assignments with the following conditions:

1. Revised submission with proper citation
2. Submit a page long explanation why plagiarism is harmful or have a conversation with the teacher about plagiarism

Resubmitted work will be graded with a 25% grade deduction.

Plagiarism is a serious offense in college and the business world and can get you expelled, fired or legally charged. Even if you plagiarize by mistake, colleges or companies have the right to proceed with legal consequences. Practicing proper citation is a way to protect ourselves from troubles with life impacting consequences. Please make the habit to properly cite your work!

### **Communication out of class**

Students and parents can reach me via Jupiter message or email. I would prefer using Jupiter. I will respond to messages in a timely manner.

I cannot guarantee an immediate response to messages after 9 PM and Friday night to Sunday night. If urgent, please contact me throughout the week as much as possible.

### **In the case of online schooling...**

In order to secure a smooth course experience, the teacher will be posting all materials on Google Classroom (other than quizzes/tests). Student work should be submitted in a timely manner. Students who decide to conduct online school will still be required to join classes via video call during normal classroom hours. In the case we go online, students should expect to join classes via Google Meets or Zoom (I will notify the students if this becomes a necessity).

When meeting via Google Meets or Zoom, I expect students to join with their cameras on. Students who fail to meet this expectation may see a lower grade for their participation grade. If there are concerns with privacy, please contact me at the beginning of the year.

### **By the end of this course, you will BE ABLE TO...**

- Apply political concepts and processes in authentic contexts
- Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps and infographics
- Distinguish between facts from opinion and identify cause and effect
- Read, analyze and interpret text-based sources
- Synthesize information from multiple sources and make decision to solve problems
- Develop an argument that is supported by a defensible thesis, relevant evidence, coherent explanation, and refutation to alternative perspectives

### **What are my goals for you...**

- 1.12f Perform analyses of quantitative historical data
- 1.12.g Evaluate historians' interpretations of the past using a variety of sources.
- 2.12b Analyze how cooperation and conflict influence political, economic, and social conditions
- 3.12e Evaluate the relationship between human societies and the environment
- 3.12g Assess the impact of cultural diffusion (globalization) on societies in different parts of the world
- 4.12.k Examine the epistemological complexities of the postmodern age.
- 6.12.a Explain the roots and historical development of contemporary political systems
- 6.12.b Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of various kinds of political philosophies and ideologies
- 6.12.f Analyze how and why political institutions distribute benefits and burdens.
- 6.12.g Describe major responsibilities of political institutions for domestic/foreign policy.
- 6.12.h Examine the wide range of influences on policy makers.
- 6.12.i Evaluate various means of achieving specific political objectives.
- 6.12.j Discuss the significance of shared political and civic beliefs and values, and of economic prosperity, to the preservation of political organization.
- 6.12.k Examine the role of voluntary, community and non- governmental groups in society and their relationship to the functions of political organizations.
- 6.12.l Evaluate functions and responsibilities of, and challenges to, leadership.
- 6.12.m Compare and contrast the role of citizens in various forms of governance.
- 6.12.n Evaluate various ways different societies provide the judiciary function.

In addition to the above goals, it is my desire that you learn the importance of studying other countries and their political systems and understand the importance and responsibility of living as a citizen in a democratic country. It is also my desire that all of us can discuss and learn what it means to honor and love God and to love our neighbors in the realm of politics; (Matthew 22.37, 39, etc.); to pray for our leaders (Timothy 2.1-2, etc.); and to act responsibly in our communities (Philippians 2.1-11, etc.).

I look forward to all the discussion we'll have throughout the semester, I'm really excited to learn about political concepts and US Government with all of you!

### **About the Teacher...**

My name is Daniel Claxton. I have a B.A. in History and International Relations from Wheaton College, Illinois, a M.P.P. from GraSPP, The University of Tokyo and M.I.S. from GSIS, Seoul National University. This is my second year at OCSI. I am extremely excited that we get to learn about politics and global affairs together and discuss the importance of politics, economics and leadership. I look forward to meeting all of you and learning together.

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My child and I have read the syllabus and fully understand **Mr. Claxton's:**

- Class Expectations
- Grading Policies
- Late Work Penalty
- Classroom Culture of Respect and Communication
- Consequences of Plagiarism
- Necessity of joining video meetings with their cameras on (in case of online school)

Student's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_