

Columbia High School / Mr. Knowles

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2007-2008 Course Schedule							
Sem	Pd 1	Pd 2	Pd 3	Pd 4	Pd 5	Pd 6	Pd 7
1	Learning Coord	World History	World History	Amer Govt	World History	Prep	Amer Govt
2				Amer Govt		Amer Govt	Prep

Class Rules and Policies

Rules, activities and assignments in this class are based on the belief that we should all enjoy a few basic rights during our time together:

Student Rights

You have the right to--
a classroom that is well-ordered,
peaceful, safe, non-threatening,
and conducive to learning;
choose how to conduct yourself, with
a full understanding of the
consequences of your choices;
a caring, thoughtful, well-prepared
teacher.

Teacher Rights

I have the right to--
teach in ways that meet the learning
and behavioral needs of all
students in the class;
expect behavior from students that
contributes to their growth as
individuals and as part of a larger
community;
teach in a climate that is free from
disruptions.

The rules, policies, and procedures of this class are intended to help each of us make the best possible choices, so we can all enjoy these rights.

Class Rules**While in this class you are expected to follow these basic rules:**

1. Be in your seat, ready to work, when the class bell rings.
2. Bring all required materials to class each day.
3. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
4. Participate responsibly in classroom activities and discussions
5. Remember a few simple no's: No food or drink, no hats, no grooming activities, and no cell-phones. Please put all these things away for the duration of class.
NOTE: Mp3 / CD players are allowed at some times, but ask first.

Basically, if you treat others with respect and make productive use of your class time you'll be living in the spirit of these rules.

Consequences

Students who choose to violate class rules will receive one or more of the following consequences. The nature and frequency of the violation determines the consequence applied:

- Warning/reminder
- Detention after class
- After school/Lunch detention; parent/guardian conference
- Behavior contract
- Office referral; possible removal from class

Required Materials

Plan to bring the following materials to class daily:

1. BOTH a blue or black pen, a pencil AND a highlighter
2. 3-Ring binder, with 5 labeled dividers and at least 5 sheets of lined paper
3. Student planner / personal calendar
4. Covered textbook, if any
5. Assignments due that period, if any

From time to time you'll also need:

1. Thumb drive or 3.5" floppy disk for backing up your work
2. 3 x 5 index cards for research activities
3. Colored pencils

Written Work-- Class assignments often involve answering questions from texts, videos, group discussions, or from other study materials. When completing written work, you should show that you understand your answers by completely rephrasing ideas in your own words. Even if the answers are a result of group discussion, you need to put your own spin on the material to make it your own. Answers copied from the text, another student, or another source are not acceptable. A first offense may result in loss of credit for the assignment. A second offense may result in loss of credit for the course.

Retakes & Rewrites-- With the exception of pop quizzes and the course final, you are always welcome (and encouraged) to retake tests or to rewrite other assignments to improve your grade. When resubmitting work, always attach the new work to the old copy, along with the original scoring guide (if there was one). Retakes, rewrites and other resubmitted work can earn up to 90% of the original assignment grade if resubmitted within a week of receiving the graded assignment from the teacher. Be sure you understand HOW to improve on the original before undertaking a new version. If you have questions, please ask.

Notes-- Classroom instruction and discussion will provide a great deal of the information you will be expected to apply and on which you will be tested. Daily notes should be kept in a running format, and should show the date and topic as a heading for each new entry. Instructions in effective note-taking strategies will be provided.

Assignment Appearance-- Assignments should be neat and legible. All papers turned in should have a complete heading, following class guidelines. Papers without complete headings will be marked down 10%. Don't tear paper from your binder as you'll be expected to keep any assignments, quizzes, and notes in your 3-Ring binder.

Computer Use-- This is a technology-rich classroom, and students have access to computers almost daily to complete required assignments. **Students must have an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) on file before using computers in class.** Students without an AUP, or who lose access privileges due to behavior in this class or elsewhere, may find it difficult to complete class assignments during assigned class time and may need to complete them on their own, outside of school. Students are expected to follow class procedures for maintaining the computer resources of the class.

Hall Passes-- Students are expected to bring all required materials to class and to take care of bathroom needs before class starts. However, students may choose to use up to four (4) hall passes per semester without penalty. After the four, students may use a hall pass in exchange for 15 minutes of lunch detention. **Hall passes may ONLY be used to visit the C-Court bathroom, C-Court water fountain, or the student's own locker. If you feel a need to visit any other destinations or use a pass for any other purposes, ask for specific permission to do so.**

Attendance & Tardies-- Timeliness and consistent attendance are important elements of success in any class, job, or other endeavor. **Students who miss class, arrive late, or leave early may not earn all the possible points available for class activities** on those days. In addition to the natural consequences of missed class time and opportunities to learn, students who accumulate more than 4 *unexcused* tardies or absences will receive additional disciplinary consequences in the form of office referrals.

Although students are not graded strictly on "participation" in class, many graded activities are based on activities that cannot be recreated for students who are absent at the time they take place in class. Students with excused absences may need to complete alternate assignments to make up for missed classroom activities.

Late Work-- Students should make every effort to complete work on time. Timely completion of work allows all students to be prepared for the day's activities, and it instills a valuable work habit. However, unforeseen circumstances can get in the way of even the best intentions. For this reason, late work will be accepted according to the following guidelines:

1. All late work is marked down 30%.
2. Late work is only accepted for scoring within 5 school days of its original due date.
3. No late work is accepted during the final week of the semester.

Exceptions to these late work policies are made only for students with excused or prearranged absences and who follow the procedures below:

1. Turn in all homework assignments due during your absence on the day you return to class;
2. Make up any tests missed outside of class time within one school day of your return;
3. Make up any in-class assignment within 3 days of your return.

PLEASE NOTE that an absence due to a school-sponsored event is considered excused BUT if you are at school even part of the day an assignment is due, you are still responsible for turning that assignment in on time, or it will be considered late.

Homework Policy-- Homework in this class is intended to practice skills already introduced in class, to prepare students for the next day's class, to elaborate on ideas introduced in class, or to review material so students have information at hand for tests, quizzes or other activities. A detailed homework policy explains many of the details of my homework philosophy; however, a few details here should be noted:

1. Homework assigned in this class is usually intended to take around 15-20 minutes for the average student to complete.
2. To help you make use of your work as the course progresses, **students are expected to keep all assignments until the end of the course.** Students who do so will be rewarded.
3. Students should make every effort to complete homework on time. However, late assignments are accepted at up to 70% of their original value during the unit in which they are assigned.
4. No late assignments are accepted during the final week of the trimester.
5. Keep in mind that the better prepared you are for class every day, the more likely you are to succeed every day.

Grading Policy--Work in this course is graded according to criteria that students have access to before the actual completion of their assignments. Class time and discussion is devoted to determining elements of successful as well as unsuccessful assignments, so all students have the opportunity to understand what constitutes excellent work, good work, passing work, and work that is not yet acceptable. Assignment scores are added as raw numbers, and grades are determined using the following percentages:

100-93% = A	82-80% = B-	69-67% = D+
92-90% = A-	79-77% = C+	66-60% = D
89-87% = B+	76-73% = C	59 - 0% = F
86-83% = B	72-70% = C-	

Students' course grades are based on a straight percentage of points earned / points possible for the grading period.

Extra Credit-- Students have numerous opportunities to earn extra points as a regular part of daily and unit assignments. In special circumstances, students will have an opportunity to complete extra projects, but only if they have completed all regular projects for the current grading period.

Course Description

World History is a required course and is a prerequisite for all other Social Studies classes at CHS. Its emphasis is on events in recorded history from the earliest civilizations (3000 BC) through the age of revolutions (1800 AD). In addition to the historical content of the course, students enrolled in the class will learn important skills relating to success in the Social Studies, in research and writing, and in general academic activities, which they can apply throughout their coursework at CHS.

The historical content covered in this class is divided into eight different units, each lasting approximately 3 to 4 weeks. They are:

1. Ancient Cultures and Civilizations
2. The Classical World of Greece and Rome
3. Eastern Empires
4. The Middle Ages
5. The Renaissance and Reformation
6. The Age of Exploration
7. The Age of Revolutions
8. Industrial and Economic Change

Most units consist of a series of homework assignments and related classroom activities designed to establish a base understanding of the important themes of the unit, a number of vocabulary words linked to the content, a student-generated timeline assignment, an essay, a research project, and a unit test.

In addition to the units above, students will devote a significant portion of the second half of the course to researching a single research topic of their choice and producing an original, 5-7 page, properly documented and formatted research paper. They will also present their findings to the class in a 3-5 minute formal oral presentation.

A mid-term exam and a course final will also be given, covering (potentially) all the material presented since the first day of class. Students will have ample opportunities and guidance to identify key concepts to help them study and learn the material.

Questions? Please call me at 493-1970, ext 229, or email me at peter.knowles@esd112.wednet.edu.

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Course Description

American Government deals with civics, national, state and local governments; historical and philosophical bases for today's governmental systems; and the student's role within that system. Most material deals with the federal level of the government, with a unit of study devoted to state and local government and another to basic economic concepts. Government and political vocabulary is also a focus of the course.

The content covered in this class is divided into six different units, each lasting approximately 3 weeks. They are:

1. Foundations of American Government
2. Civil Rights
3. Presidential Elections / Electoral College
4. State and Local Government
5. Voting Behavior and Political Parties
6. Comparative Economic Systems

Personal Code: In conjunction with our study of the Constitution, students will be creating a personal code to share with others, in an effort to create a coherent, thoughtful, and public declaration of principles that they hope to live by.

Political Vocabulary: In addition to the main units of study shown above, students will be challenged to learn, and to use, a number of political terms that will help equip them for the ongoing discussion of current governmental issues that responsible citizens of a democracy require. The list, selected from E.D. Hirsch's *Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, deals with language used in the daily discourse about our nation, government, and world. Students will receive lists of terms, definitions, examples, and opportunities for review in preparation of each quiz.

Current Events: Understanding the government around you requires an understanding of the current world around you. Consequently, this class will also devote a significant amount of time to learning about and discussing current events that help shape our current public policy. Students are encouraged to be active consumers of the daily news, through whatever sources are available, to create a changing and varied view of the world events that shape our democracy.

Finals: A cumulative course final will be taken on the last day of class, covering (potentially) all the material presented since the first day of class. Students will have ample opportunities and guidance to identify key concepts to help them study and learn the material. A "Political Vocabulary Final", separate from the course final, will also be given in the closing days of the course.

Textbooks & Resources:

- Magruder's *American Government* Please cover the text issued to you and bring it to class daily
- Holt's *Economics* used in class
- Current Events: *The New York Times Update* and *The Oregonian* available in class.

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