

U.S. Government Sample Syllabus

Taught by Nate Gilbert



This course's objective is to introduce students to the principles behind the United States' government and its political institutions and to enable the students to interact with various political viewpoints. Students will understand the historical development of our current political situation, analyze the political process, and describe how various political groups function today. The goal is for students to become familiar with public policies, our Constitutional underpinnings, and political behavior in our society. Students should then be able to appropriately apply their understanding to evaluate how just and appropriate various political actions are.

Zoom Live Class:

Students should use video and audio during the live class. Parents may request an exception to this requirement. The chat box does work for communication, but there is sometimes a delay before I see what is typed. Please keep chat conversations related to class and try not to interrupt the flow of class. Please respect others' opinions and give others a chance to talk about a topic. The recording is posted after each class for review. I recommend that students take notes during the live class.

Late Work Policy:

Students are allowed to submit work in any order they choose, provided it is completed by the due date. Late assignments will incur a 10% scoring reduction per day late. Assignments over one week late are NOT accepted or graded and will be marked as zero. Late assignments may receive less feedback. Any request for an exception must be made prior to the due date and have the support of a parent.

Quizzes:

The weekly quiz is designed to test your knowledge of the class information discussed during the live class presentation. The quiz is timed and may not be taken with any outside assistance (including notes, web searches, tips from friends, etc.). This is not meant to cause you stress, but rather see how much of the information is being retained.

Assignments:

Regular assignments may include completing an online activity, watching a video online, reading an article, or completing relevant worksheets. There will normally be several reflective questions related to the material to assess the student's response to the information presented. Students should respond in complete sentences and demonstrate supportive reasoning for their answers. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas and statements of another as if they are one's own without crediting the original source. When students use someone else's words or ideas, they must credit the source. Short essays may be infrequently assigned.

Participation/Professionalism:

Students should engage in class discussions, use video during class, and pay attention during class. If students can't attend the live class, they should still communicate with the class in the online discussion forum and with the teacher.

Note to Parents About Internet Usage:

At times I will direct the students to a website for an assignment or activity. I have tried to be careful when selecting websites so as to avoid inappropriate content. Parents should also monitor their child's internet usage and employ appropriate internet filters.