

Government

One Semester

Me: Brian F. Busker (Mr. Busker to you)
Home Phone: (507) 442-5095 (no later than 10:00 p.m.)

Philosophy of Education:

I believe we are all made in the image of God, and as such, should treat each other with dignity and respect. Failure to do so will bring with it consequences. All of history is God's history and fits into His (our) story of redemption. It is from this perspective and framework that I teach.

Subject:

Government is for 12th grade students. This is to be taken in your senior year and is the fourth history course required of you. This is a general survey course and you need this course to graduate. If you fail this course, you will have to take it again.

Government is a course that is in full alignment with the Social Studies Program goals, and in particular, with #5 and #11 which deal with worldview, citizenship in a secular state, current debates and international relations.

This one semester government course is meant to generally inform you of the structure and procedures of our nation's government. We will hopefully cover all of the following topics...

- Principles of Government (Ch1)
- Origins of Government (Ch2)
- The Constitution (Ch3-4)
- Civil liberties and rights (Ch5-7)
- Political Parties and Elections (Ch10-11)
- Branches of Government (Ch12-18)
- Foreign Policy (Ch20)
- Local and State Politics and Procedures

Besides these broad topics you will also be required to complete the following assignments...

- Memorize the Preamble
- Pass a Constitution Test
- Take part in a class election
- Current topic debate and project
- Current events assignments and periodic quizzes

Materials:

- Three ring binder or Folder
- Textbook
- Pencil, Pen
- The Week

Classroom Policies and Expectations:

--Besides what's in the student handbook, the following are policies specific to my room:

- When the bell rings you must be in the room *and on your way to your assigned seat*. Not adhering to this will incur a tardy from which five accumulations of such an offense is punishable by a detention.
- **All** Cell Phones are to be placed in the drawer in the front of the room. Any cell phone seen or used during class without prior permission will be confiscated and turned in to the administration per the school policy.
- Talking out of turn (especially when I am talking) is ill-advised and continuing to do so at inappropriate times will result in OBT or some other form of justice.
- One must adhere to the student handbook concerning clothing and dress. Obvious rebellion of it will allow you to be kicked out of my classroom and sent to the office.
- Assignments are due the day assigned by the beginning of classtime unless otherwise noted.
- If you miss class, **YOU** are responsible for getting the information talked about from a fellow classmate or myself. Missing the day before a test or quiz will still result in you taking the examination on the assigned day, unless special arrangements are made by taking the issue up with me at least one period prior to the event.
- If you are absent the day of a test or quiz it is once again **YOUR** responsibility to make arrangements with me to make it up.
- Late papers will not be accepted on full credit, unless special circumstances arise. I, and I alone, hold the ability to deduct points on late papers, and I will do it depending on the degree of the assignment and the degree of lateness. Get the work in on time and you will avoid having me reduce them.
- Throwing objects across the room or at people is childish and inappropriate. If you choose to be immature in this way then an automatic 5 minute OBT will be instituted for the end of the day for you to sweep my room.

Discipline:

Respect and Christian Love must be present at all times. Inappropriate conduct or behavior, whether it be disturbing class and/or being disrespectful to me or a fellow student in any way, will result in OBT, a detention and/or your expulsion from my classroom.

OBT (Owe Busker Time), simply put, is that if you waste my time after a warning or two then you owe me time. Think of it as a mini-detention of varying lengths. You have two days to make up the time with me. If you fail to make it up in time you will get one more chance; otherwise, I will contact home and make it an official detention with our administration.

Grading:

I grade by a point system taking the total possible and dividing it by the total amount received by you the student. The points will be added from daily assignments, projects, quizzes, papers, and tests. Class participation and attitude are the wild cards in this scheme and can either raise or lower your final grade. Final Grade is weighted with each quarter being 40% and the exam being 20%.

Grading Scale: 100-97 = A
96-94 = A-
93-90 = B+
89-86 = B
85-83 = B-
82-79 = C+
78-75 = C
74-72 = C-
71-68 = D+
67-64 = D
63-60 = D-

Extra Credit:

Extra Credit may be possible for this history course. It will not be a dramatic shift in your grade but it will help it. If anything, it will provide some psychological influence for me when calculating your final grade.

Extra Help:

I am available pretty much all through the day outside of class and after school until 4:00 p.m. Feel free to contact me if you need help with anything so we can sit down some time and figure out the problem. Feel free to call me if needs be, but if it can wait then get a hold of me at school the next day.

I hope and pray this will be a good semester and if the above is followed by you as well as me then we should have no problem accomplishing this goal.

D.V.