

Principles of American Democracy (CP)

Mr. LaRocca

Room: F-8

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Conference Hours: Available by Appointment

Class website: <https://sites.google.com/site/mrlaroccasclasses>

Course Description:

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on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the Federalist Papers.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. (www.cde.ca.gov)

Textbook: Remy, Richard C. *United States Government: Democracy in Action*. McGraw-Hill Education, 2012.

Units of Study:

Unit 1- Foundations/the Constitution (Ch. 1-4)

Unit 2- The Legislative Branch (Ch. 5-7)

Unit 3- The Executive Branch (Ch. 8-10)

Unit 4- Judicial Branch (Ch. 11-12, 15)

Unit 5- Liberty and Justice (Civil Liberties and Rights) (Ch. 13-14)

Unit 6- Participating in Government (Ch. 16-19)

Unit 7- Public Policy (Ch. 20-22)

Unit 8- State and Local Government (Ch. 23-24)

Grades:

Grades will be determined on a point scale. The more points you earn, the higher your grade:

100%-90% = A

89%-80%= B

79%-70%= C

69%-60%= D

59% and below= F

There will be different weight given to different types of assignments. That breakdown is:

Unit Exams = 30%

Notebook = 25%

Projects = 25%

Quizzes = 15%

Weekly Participation = 5%

Attendance:

You **NEED** to be in class every day. . If you are sick and miss class, it is **YOUR**

RESPONSIBILITY to find out what you missed and make it up. Please check the website to figure

out what you may have missed while absent!! **The School Absence and Tardy policy will be followed in this class.**

Classroom Rules and Behavior:

All students will be treated with respect by the teacher and other students. Disrespect or rudeness of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Class Rules:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Prepared
- Be Quiet...when class starts
- Mr. LaRocca will dismiss class
- Do NOT touch anything that does not belong to you

Exams and Quizzes:

After each Unit of study, you will take an exam. Exams will include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Quizzes will be given periodically mainly to check your understanding of subject matter and as a way to make sure you are doing the nightly readings. They will be announced and unannounced and usually count for 10-20 points. News Quizzes will be given twice per quarter; you may use any notes you have taken in class to help you.

Notebook:

You will keep a 3-ring binder specifically for this class, which will include four sections:

1. Warm-ups - almost every day we will start class with a warm up question.
**Do not take notes on the news of the day on your Warm-ups!!
2. Class notes – Power points, group notes, whiteboard, video, etc.
3. Class work – Specific assignments done in class that reflect understanding, etc.
4. Graded Work (Tests, etc). – Keep this work to verify grades.

Notebooks will be collected the day of the Unit exam.

Homework:

You will be expected to do homework each night. Homework will be used mainly as a preparation for the next day's class, or as a review from the present day's class. Homework will consist of a reading assignment or a research assignment. Rarely will there be traditional homework questions turned into the teacher. There will be frequent reading quizzes. These will not be announced ahead of time. If you take notes on the reading, you WILL be allowed to use them on the quiz.

Projects:

Will be individual and group oriented at various times during the course of the term. Due dates on projects are firm. **I will not accept any late projects.**

** AS the teacher, I reserve the right to change this syllabus at ANY time.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____