

Government I & II

Instructor: Mr. Ring

Office Hours: Before school (7-7:30), 6th period, 8th period (ALC), or after school (all by appointment – Sign up sheet on the door)

Email: rings@wsoh.org

Overview

This course will introduce you to various forms of Government and take an in-depth look at the American political system. This class is required by the State of Ohio and is intended to stimulate higher level thinking and prepare students for college and beyond. Throughout this course students will examine issues that are prevalent today and historically important to understand the importance and functionality of our local, state and federal governments.

Grades and Grading

Throughout the semester we will be examining many relevant and sometimes controversial topics in a variety of ways. You will be asked to research topics because you cannot form an intelligent opinion without understanding the topic. You will be asked to write essays, take tests, read articles and debate or discuss the issues. Grading will be based off of the GLI system for standards created by the State for Government. A further explanation of the system will follow.

Expectations

Things you will need to know to *survive* my class...

- **Handbook** – I will follow all of the school rules with no exception! (Cell phones, Dress Code, Etc.)
- **Dress Code** – The school is a stickler for the dress code. I use a zone violation system wherein if you are dressed inappropriately (guys or girls) I will fill out the form and send you to the office at which time you will report to a Dean or Principal to get your situation corrected before being admitted into class. I am aware that you feel this is stupid but rules are rules and I hope this issue is never again discussed.
- **Tardy** – I hate tardy's!! That being said I will also make you hate tardy's. You will be allowed one free tardy and every following tardy will earn you 10 push-ups. The push-ups will build upon themselves every time you are late (first time = 10, second time =20, third time = 40, etc.). One of two things will come about from this; you will either learn to get to class on time or you will enhance your upper body strength.
- **Late work** – There is no such thing as late work in my class... but don't get too excited. No late work will be accepted without a note (*written* and *signed*) by your parent or guardian (Simply a signature will not suffice). Also, you will have two weeks to turn in tardy work or be reassessed after an assignment has been given until one week prior to the end of a grading period because I will not have time to grade everything. Do note that if turning in late becomes an issue **WE** will have a meeting with your folks.
- **The Bells** – The first bell is to signal the start of class, not the two minute warning to be quiet and pay attention. The second bell does not excuse you from class, I do. This is not a power trip but to ensure that learning can take place the full 45 minutes if necessary. This being said, **DO NOT LINE UP AT THE DOOR BEFORE CLASS IS OVER...** it drives me nuts.

- **Refreshments** – Beverages must have a sealable lid; I don't want to clean up any messes. Food must either find its way into your mouth or the trash can, if you leave trash or food in my room you will clean it, all of it. Also, the first time I have someone from any class throughout the day complain about gum on their seat, desk or on the floor it will be banned from my room in every class; be responsible.
- **Be Prepared** – You should come to class everyday ready to learn. Contrary to popular belief school is to learn and expand your knowledge and beliefs not to socialize (that is a perk). A writing utensil is necessary everyday; I do not loan out pencils or pens you can either ask a friend or buy a #2 pencil from me for .25 cents.
- **You ARE allowed to fail my class** – It is hard to do but if you have your mind made up to do it, chances are there isn't a thing I can do about it. There are just some adolescents that for one reason or another just will not try. I don't like it and wish I could stop it but... some of you will choose to be left behind. However, if you try and struggle I will do everything in my power to help you achieve your goals.
- **Don't be a Knucklehead** – As upperclassmen I expect more sophistication and maturity. You have all been here and done the dance for the past few years, so I don't expect to have to waste my time telling you to keep your hands to yourself or stop throwing paper wads. I like having fun and enjoying teaching and when I have to direct my attention to knuckleheads, I don't have fun and get grouchy; this isn't good for any of us. So always think before you act and if you have any questions as to whether your contemplated action is good or not, odds are it's not so don't do it. 95% of discipline is anticipation.
- **Were you Raised in a Barn?** – Push in your chairs when you leave your desk!!
- **Progress Reports** – I will be using Power Teacher online grading so you and your parents can check your grades at anytime.

Contact Information

There are a number of ways you may contact me...

- Email is by far the quickest and best way to contact me; I am frequently checking my email. rings@wcsoh.org
- Twitter - @mrRingwnssteach
- Remind 101
 - Send a text to: (917) 746-3054
 - Text message should read: @c5d7b
- Website

Golden Rule

In this class you will be permitted to fail as mentioned previously. Having said that, I will not permit you or any student who has CHOSEN to fail to take others down with you. You may not interfere with my right to teach others or others right to learn.

A Final Note

I truly hope all of you choose to become truly engaged in this class because it is not only a college prep class but offers up perspectives into issues that you will need to be familiar with. Once again I will never try to change anyone's personal beliefs of values, I only ask that you keep an open mind to views different than yours because that is truly when you learn and grow.