

Course Page: <http://www.govandlaw.org/mvhs>

A) Course Description: A technology project and competition based course in which students in teams of 4-6 present in simulated congressional hearings. It will explore political philosophy, constitutional history, constitutional law, domestic and foreign government institutions, civic engagement, and social economics. The year long course fulfills both high school and UC/CSU subject requirements in government and economics. The team is encouraged to sign up to take the AP US Government exam.

Course Page: <http://www.govandlaw.org/mvhs> (Grades on School Loop, rest here)

Teacher: Christopher Chiang **Room:** C110

E-mail: christopher_chiang@fuhisd.org **Phone:** (408) 366-7600, Ext. 8801

Education: MA in Ed, Columbia; MA in Ed, Stanford; BA in Political Science, UCI

Experience: Prior to Monta Vista HS, founding teacher at Seward Park HS in NYC

B) Laptop Requirement (WiFi required, mouse and protective bag recommended)

The team is completely paperless. A laptop is required daily. Difficulty meeting this requirement must be brought to Mr. Chiang's attention immediately, so accommodations can be made. Failure to do so will result in daily penalties.

Recommended Netbooks: Toshiba, Samsung, Dell, Acer, HP, or ASUS

Laptop/Netbooks

Laptop lids may be open only when the task calls for laptop use. All other times, like during class discussion, laptops must remain "lids down." Outside of Gov Team, always ask your teachers before using your laptop. Daytime laptop storage is provided (store at your own risk). You are responsible for the care of your laptop.

C) Grading For the Year:

Activities/Homework	10 points each time
Class Participation	10 points weekly
Speaking Practice	60 points each time
Unit Meetings (8 hours a month)	160 points a month (20 points each hour)
Tests	100 points each time
Projects	100 points each time
Competitions/Field Studies	600 points each time (0 or 600)
Written Speeches (3 speeches)	600 points (200 points each speech)

You can find your grades at: www.schoolloop.com

Your grades will be based on the total points you earned divided by the maximum points possible up to that date. It is your responsibility to monitor your grades online.

Straight Scale: A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59-0 (No curve)

In cases of x9%, your participation score will determine if it will be rounded.

90% Policy: Test scores below 90% must be retaken until 90% is archived.

Class Participation 1-10 Point Weekly Grading Scale: 0-5: Off task or missing in class activities. **6:** Coming to class prepared and following activity instructions.

7-10: Participating in class discussions and/or writing blog entries (2+ a week).

Points are deducted for not being present for class activities or for being off task.

D) Late Work/Missing Work

- 1) It is your responsibility to check for missed work. Late work is submitted using the *late work slip* at the back of the class. This form is also used for grade corrections.
- 2) Penalties listed on the *late work slip*. Excused absence, work not penalized equal to days missed. If makeup work is submitted, and later the excused absence is discovered to be unexcused, a double zero will be entered for the assignment.

E) Academic Honesty

During quizzes, tests, and presentations: points will be deducted for any form of communication, beyond communicating with the teacher, no matter the topic. Work copied, misrepresented, shared, or aided without consent/citation is cheating. Gathering original material from competing schools disqualifies MV in competition. Removing restricted materials from the class, electronically logging on as someone else, or tampering with online team resources is cheating and is also a crime. Some materials are for team use only and may not be shared with other classes.

Three Things Take Place with Cheating

- 1) Double zero will be entered for the assignment.
- 2) Parent will be notified of the incident.
- 3) Letter will be submitted to the counselor to be placed in the student's school file.

F) Five (5) Course Policies

1) The team works only if we can trust each other. We build trust every day by committing ourselves to our team beliefs on the wall. It is your duty to uphold: the team tradition's of family among team and reputation outside of MVHS.

2) Failure to fully complete one's responsibilities to their unit will result in a double zero on that task. Repeated lapses lead to a F and/or removal from the team. Communicate quickly with your unit and Mr. Chiang of all hardships.

3) To be marked on-time and to receive full participation points, you have to be at your desk, ready to engage with team. Tardies and unexcused absences will significantly impact your grade and/or result in community service work.

4) Out of respect for the team and Mr. Chiang, work from other classes cannot be out. Work seen will be confiscated. Respect lost takes work to earn back.

5) You must follow all district technology policies. Using the technology to harass others, access inappropriate or unauthorized content, or carry out illegal conduct like piracy will result in a double zero on that task. Repeated or serious violations lead to district sanctions and/or removal from the team.

You have had the opportunity to read through this material, please sign below.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name
Comments:

Parent Signature

Date