

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

A) Course Description: This is a survey course in U.S. Government. It will explore the U.S. Constitution, political institutions, and the role of citizens. The emphasis will be on critical analysis and oral advocacy. It is aligned with the CA Social Science Standards. This course fulfills a UC/CSU subject requirement with a C- or higher.

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

Teacher: Christopher Chiang

Room: C110

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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) Three (3) Required Materials: Pencil/Pen, Highlighter, and Class Notebook.

Pencil, pen, and a class notebook must be brought to class everyday.

Participation points are deducted for not having those three materials.

C) Grading For the Year:

Activities/Homework/Quizzes	10 points each time
Class Participation	10 points weekly
Class Workbook Check	100 points each check
Tests	100 points each time
Projects	100 points each time
Mid-semester Exam	200 points
Semester Final Exam and Portfolio	400 points

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.

Test Format: Tests are **20** questions: **15** questions from class notes and **5** questions from in-class readings/audio/film **work sections**, 20 point essay prompt at Mr. Chiang's discretion. Unexcused makeup tests also include 4 additional essays.

60% Policy: Test scores below 60% can be retaken for up to maximum of 60%.

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. Removing restricted materials from the class, electronically logging on as someone else, or tampering with online class resources is cheating and is also a crime.

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) You deserve a class that is safe and respectful. Acting reckless, including mishandling of equipment or willfully disrespecting others will result in a: 20 minute lunch/after-school conference and parent notification.

2) You deserve a chance to learn. With regard to distractions such as talking or being off task:

- a) 1st reminder: A reminder and if it happens during an activity, lost activity points
- b) 2nd reminder: a) + 10 minute brunch/lunch/after-school conference
- c) 3rd reminder: a) + b) + parent notification.

Remember, being off task will impact your participation points.

3) You deserve a professional and clean classroom. These items cannot be used, out, heard, or worn during class:

- Items that use electricity unless authorized by the teacher for that/prior to activity
- Work from other classes and other books/magazines/newspapers.
- Food (no lunch), candy/gum (no fundraising during class), or sugared drinks (Exception: water and non-messy healthy snacks)

If these items are used, out, heard, or worn, you will have it taken from you.

4) To be marked on-time and to receive full participation points, you have to be at your desk, silently setting up your opener task at the start of class. You are not participating if you are not in class. Tardies and unexcused absences will significantly impact your participation points. When late always check in with Mr. Chiang after class. When absent, always contact Mr. Chiang by email.

5) First missed conference will double the time. Second missed conference or multiple repeated infractions will require a parent conference.

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

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date