

## **Government**

Mr. Ocken

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First Period, Term I, 2018

All my classes are accessed through Google Classroom at [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com). Each student has their own login and password. From Google Classroom students and parents can monitor assignments, receive notifications, submit inquiries and monitor the progress through the academic calendar.

**Overview:** Required for Graduation, Grades 9 - 12 – This course provides an understanding of the ideals, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship and understand the content and history of the founding documents of the United States including the New Mexico and United States Constitutions and how governments function at the local, state, tribal, and national levels. In addition, 9-12 Social Studies Benchmarks and Performance Standards (History, Civics, and Government, Economics and Geography) should be included as appropriate to the course.

Classroom instruction is based on NM standards and benchmarks:

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/standards/Social%20Studies/Social%20Studies%209-12.pdf>

At the end of the course students are expected to have the knowledge necessary to pass the End of Course Exam from the State of New Mexico PED. The Information assessed is generally available, however it has been temporarily removed because the State Department of Education is redoing the EoC for Government. Once the information is available it should be at:

[http://www.ped.state.nm.us/ped/Assessment EOC Blueprints 1617.html](http://www.ped.state.nm.us/ped/Assessment%20EOC%20Blueprints%201617.html)

The PAPA Mission Statement (see handbook) states that PAPA is a college prep institution, and as such I have designed my course to resemble a college class in many respects. The students will be required to maintain lecture notes and participate in classroom discussions, as well as complete all assignments with integrity and on time.

Final grades will be based on the following weights:

30% Classroom Assignments

30% Assessments

20% Homework

20% Classroom participation, including attendance

Students will be required to have with them in class daily a pencil or pen (blue or black), a notebook solely for Government if they don't wish to keep online notes (I will at times collect the notebooks and hold on to them for a few days) and a folder to keep worksheets and handouts. Outside of school students will need access to a computer with the Internet. If the computer and/or internet access is an issue, please meet with me individually. The majority of work will be done online, through Google Classroom.

The main text for this class will be McClenaghan, William A., *Magruder's American Government*, Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. The students will have a copy to keep at home for the semester and are expected to care for it as school property.

Other times students will need to take a text home for a short period of time and return it in good condition. All books will be signed out and back in. These may include *Economics Explained* (Heilbroner and Thurow, 1982) and *Freakonomics* (Levitt and Dubner, 2005)

While there will be a significant amount of note taking based on classroom lecture, students will also be required to work well in groups and participate in classroom discussions. Classroom discussions are an integral part of a Government class. As such, appropriate classroom behavior is a must. During classroom discussions students are expected to treat peers with respect, honor the opinions of others, and express their own ideas in a mature fashion.

Remember:

Be prepared and on time.

Be in your seat when the bell rings.

Follow directions the first time.

Respect others and their space.

Turn in all assignments timely.

Participate in all classroom activities.

Under no circumstance should you plagiarize the work of others.

The following represents the timeline for Government class, first term of 2017. It remains subject to change as we progress through the material. It is based on the New Mexico State Standards and Benchmarks for Social Studies.

Week	Content
1	introduction
2	key terms, types of governments
3	influential ideas
4	influential ideas
5	Declaration of independence
6	Bill of Rights
7	Article 1
8	Article 2
9	Article 3
10	Constitution
11	Constitution
12	Public Opinion
13	Nomination process, non-elected persons

14	New Mexico Gov.
15	New Mexico Gov.
16	Local, state, tribal governments