

U.S. History

Mr. Ocken

jocken@paparts.org

(505)830-3128

2025-2026

All my classes are accessed through Google Classroom at 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. Parents can also access student grades through PowerSchool

Overview: Required for Graduation, Grades 9 - 12.

United States History and Geography is a survey course with a focus on post-Reconstruction United States (1877-Present). Major emphasis is placed on American society, culture, and politics. The student uses critical thinking skills to demonstrate understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States.

Classroom instruction is based on NM standards and benchmarks:

https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SocialStudiesStandards_9-12.pdf

At the end of the course students are expected to have the knowledge necessary to pass the End of Course Exam (EOC) 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 U.S. History. Once the information is available it should be at:

http://www.ped.state.nm.us/ped/Assessment_EOC_Blueprints_1617.html

As soon as it is available, I will post it to Google Classroom

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. Late work will be docked fifty percent. Students will be able to make up the work, but they will lose half the credit for the assignment. The late work will be accepted throughout the grading period, which ends quarterly.

Final grades will be based on the following weights:

40% Classroom Assignments

40% Assessments

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 Internet access. 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.

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), *The Politics Book* (Dorling Kindersly Limited, 2013), or *Freakonomics* (Levitt and Dubner, 2005). In class students will work with a U.S. History textbook.

While there will be a significant amount of note taking based on classroom lectures, 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 in a timely manner.

Participate in all classroom activities.

Under no circumstance should you plagiarize the work of others.