

Government Syllabus

Mr. Ocken

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2026-27

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.

This course provides an understanding of the ideals, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, the content and history of the founding documents of the United States, including the New Mexico Constitution and the United States Constitution, 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:

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NM-Standards-508.pdf>

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). 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. However, most of the work will be assigned and completed 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).

There are also, and increasingly, a significant amount of online sources, which include, but are not limited to:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history>

and

<https://openstax.org/k12/american-government>

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.

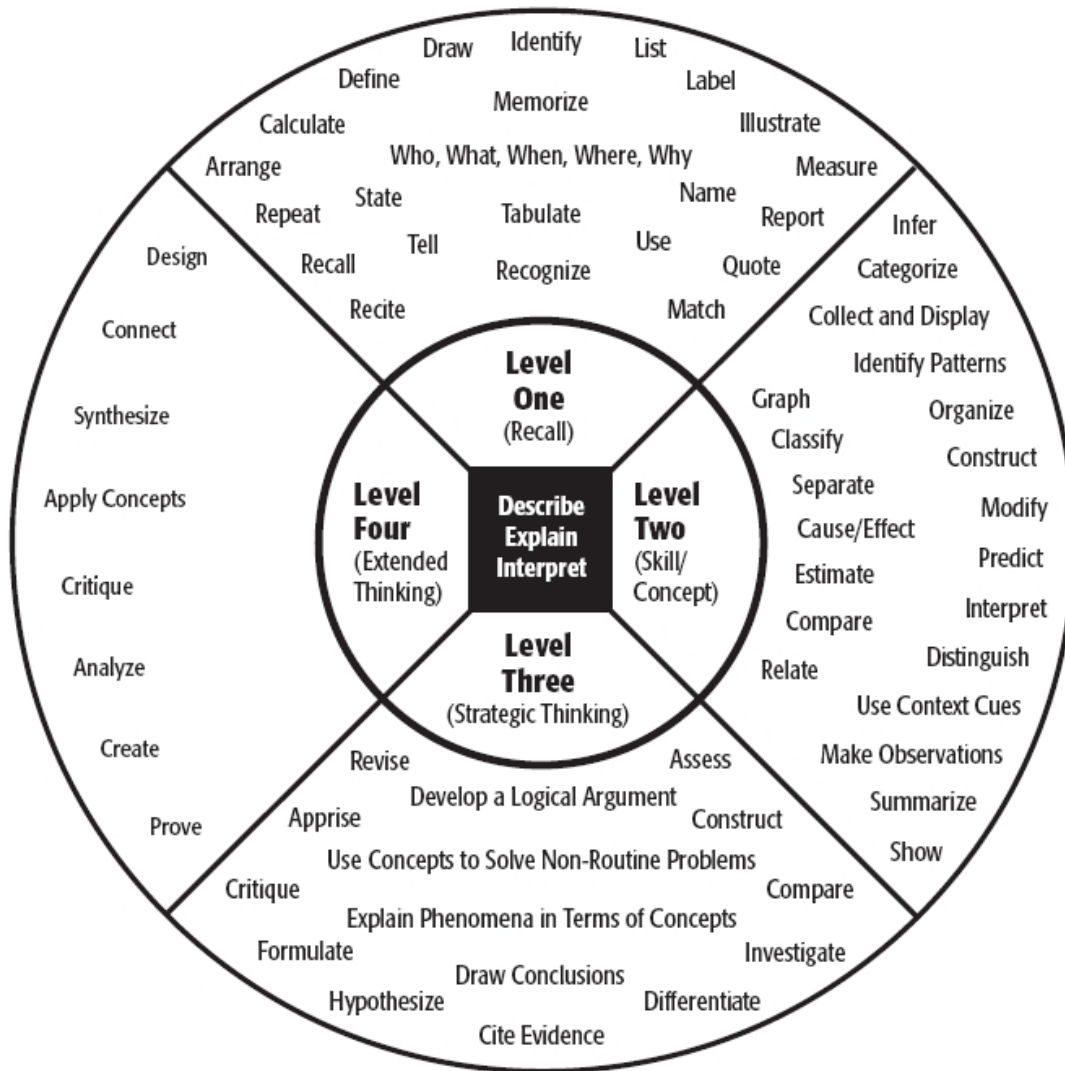
Participate in all classroom activities.

Under no circumstance should you plagiarize the work of others.

Under no circumstances should you use AI in your classwork.

The following represents the timeline for Government class, first term of 2019. 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



Bloom's Taxonomy

Creating:

Can students create a new product or point of view?
They would be able to assemble, construct, create, design, develop, formulate, write, or invent.

Evaluating:

Can the student justify a stand or decision?
To evaluate information, a student might: appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, and evaluate.

Analyzing:

Can the student distinguish between the different parts?
They would be able to compare, contrast, criticize, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, or test.

Applying:

Can the student use the information in a new way?
They would be able to choose, demonstrate, dramatize, employ, illustrate, interpret, operate, sketch, solve, use, or write.

Understanding:

Can the student explain ideas or concepts?
They would be able to classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate, or paraphrase.

Remembering:

Can the student recall or remember the information?
They would be able to define, duplicate, list, memorize, recall, repeat, reproduce, or state.