

## **Course Information - *Principles of Economics and American Government***

Principles of Economics and American Government are two separate, required, one-semester courses in California. (The state-designed frameworks can be viewed [here](#).) First semester will be Principles of Economics, American Government will start in January. The following information applies to both courses.

### ***Content, Procedures, and Pacing***

Class will begin with a 3-5 minute warm-up activity or quiz that students complete individually, during which time attendance will be taken. This will be followed by a whole-group meeting for sharing, discussion, and instruction. Typically, there will be some type of activity and time for independent or small-group work to do in-class assignments or to work on the weekly assignment.

Various textbooks and workbooks will be used in class, but students will not be assigned texts to take home unless a particular student has a special need for it. Most materials used in class will be available digitally on Google Classroom, and most work will be completed or submitted on it as well.

Each week there will be one assignment designated (and clearly identified on Google Classroom) as the Weekly Assignment. The Weekly Assignments will be the only assignments graded and entered individually in Powerschool. Students will have many other assignments each week, but those will be part of their participation grade. Having only one graded assignment per week allows for more in-depth feedback on student work. Assignments will be graded closely based on how well they reflect understanding of content and demonstrate critical thinking. Keep in mind that with only one graded assignment a week, each assignment is worth a significant amount of the total grade.

### ***Grading***

35% - Weekly Assignments (one per week—see description above)

35% - Participation (attendance and in-class assignments)

10% - Quizzes

20% - Final Exam

### ***Attendance***

As noted above, doing well on the weekly assignments is important to doing well in the class; and attending class is important to doing well on the assignments. Most of the activities we do during class will be related to or in support of the assignments, which in turn build the knowledge and skills necessary for doing well on the final exam. To reinforce the importance of engaged attendance, participation credit will be given based on attendance and completion of in-class work. If students have an excused absence, they will need to complete all assignments and activities posted on Classroom for that day in order to receive participation credit. If they have an unexcused absence, they will receive a zero for that day's participation grade. Similarly, students can make-up quizzes they miss if the absence is excused, but not if it is unexcused.