Berean Christian High School, 2018-2019

Teacher: Mrs Oriol

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**Civics & Economics**

*“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” Romans 13:1 ESV*

**Course Description:**

This is a year-long course that integrates government and economics and meets the state mandated civics and economics requirements. The purpose of this class is to examine government at the federal, state, and local levels. Throughout the course, students will consider the ways in which government in this country is organized, the ways in which people participate, the many functions that government has and the way in which it carries out those functions. Students will examine how their faith will influence their participation in civics and how God and government can be connected.

Students will also develop “economic literacy” –the ability to understand economic concepts. This type of literacy is becoming essential for citizens in our national and increasingly interconnected world economy. Students in this course will learn to identify, analyze, and evaluate the causes and consequences of individual economic decisions and public policy, including issues raised by the constraints imposed by scarcity, how economies and markets work, and the benefits and costs of economic interaction and interdependence.

Class activities will include guest speakers, projects, simulations, group work, and small group discussion concerning the organization and tasks of governments, as well as the way economies work on a micro and macro level.

**Course Requirements:**

Learning government and politics can be fun and exciting. It can also be fast-paced and involved. As a result,it will require a commitment of time and energy on the part of the students. I expect that each student does his/her best, is responsible, and possesses a positive attitude and open mind. If you participate every day, complete and turn in all homework on time (to be turned in at the beginning of class), and ask questions when needed, it will be great year of learning!

**Textbooks/Notebooks:**

*Textbooks are:*

* Ginsberg, Benjamin, et al. *We the People: An Introduction to American Politics*. 11th ed., W.W. Norton & Company, 2017.
* Orwell, George, et al. *Animal Farm: A Fairy Story* . Signet Classics, 1996.
* O'Sullivan, Arthur, and Steven M. Sheffrin. *Economics: Principles in Action*. Boston, MA: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2007. Print.

We will also be studying written and oral work that has contributed to American political thought. These will be available electronically and as handouts (for those who prefer to have the paper in hand).

I-Pads are to be brought to class EVERY day. However, iPads are to remain closed unless needed to access a homework file, handout, video, or quiz.

In addition, students are asked to have a 3-ring 1” binder for class notes, assignments, journals, etc. Please put plenty of loose-leaf paper in the front of your binder for notes and in-class assignments.

**Additional Materials:**

Students should have their Bible or a Bible App on iPad, textbooks (if given or borrowed), notebooks (college ruled), a folder or binder and something to write with each and every day.

**Tests and Quizzes/Pop Quizzes:**

Tests have various formats (essay, short answer, multiple choice, true/false, etc.). Tests will contain questions from class notes, the textbook, assignments, discussions, videos, and more. Students will be given advance notice of all tests.

Quizzes and pop quizzes will be given from time to time. If a student is absent, the quiz needs to be made-up on the day he/she returns. Once graded quizzes are returned to students who were present on the day of the quiz, there will be no opportunity for make-ups. Unexcused absences on the day of a quiz or test will result in "0" points. Quizzes will be 20% and tests will be approximately 30% of your grade in this class.

**\*\*\*There are no test or quiz retakes in this class. You are expected to be prepared the first time. \*\*\***

**Projects, Essays and Simulations:**

Units often culminate with a project or simulation. These may take the form of a written report, role-playing activity, debate, or another form of student-led learning. Students are expected to prepare and participate in all projects and simulations. Projects, simulations & essay assignments will be worth approximately 20% of the grade in this class. All major assignments and essays must be turned in on the due date. After the due date, the assignment will be deducted 10% for each day late.

All major assignments must be TYPED unless students are informed otherwise. When requested, rough drafts must accompany projects/essays for credit. Plagiarism on any assignment will result in the student earning a “0” on that assignment with no opportunity to re-do the assignment for credit and the student’s administrator will be notified. See the handbook for further information on demerit penalties for plagiarism.

**Assignment/Homework Policy**

Students should expect a lot of work (thinking, reading, writing, analyzing, discussing) in this class. The purpose of the assignments and homework is to reinforce and deepen understanding of the main concepts of Government & Economics. You are expected to complete your own work unless otherwise directed. You will also be expected to stay connected with international, national, state and local current events. Pay attention to what is happening in this world!

**Absent Work**

To help you schedule and prioritize your week or make you aware of what you missed when you were absent check at the front of the room. It is your responsibility to get your make-up work. You have two days for everyday that you were absent to turn in the missing work. Work for “unexcused absences” may be completed, but will not be given a grade. All makeup work must have the word “Absent” on it or it will be considered “late” and credit will be deducted based on due date and the date it was turned in. Contact me or call a partner to find out what you missed. Please see the student handbook for further information as that posted policy will be followed. Check RenWeb!

If the student is aware of a test, quiz, or assignment, before being absent, the student is to take the test, or turn in the assignment, with the rest of the class.

**If you were absent only one day, the day of a test or quiz, it must be completed on the day you return.**

**Late Work**

While it is expected that students will hand in their work on time, it is also understood that sometimes ‘life gets in the way’. Although there will be certain assignments where few, if any exceptions, will be made, most assignments will have the opportunity to be turned in for ‘Late’ work. An assignment is considered ‘late’ if it is not handed in when it is collected. A ‘late’ assignment will automatically have 10% of the earned point value deducted from the total. (Ex: a homework assignment is worth 20 points. The assignment that is turned in earns 18/20 points. The student will have a score of 16 entered in for his/her grade.)

Assignments that are eligible to be done as ‘late’ work can be turned in up to 5 days late. Any assignment that is not turned in by that time will no longer be eligible for any points at all.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Grades are on done on a weighted basis. The breakdown is as follows:

20% Weekly Writing Assignment

30% Projects, Essays & Simulations

20% Quizzes

30% Test

Student grades will be regularly posted both on RenWeb and in class and students need to report any problems immediately. My grade book is the final grade.

**Extra Credit**

Extra credit will be offered throughout the course.

**Government/Economics Club**

These subjects can be very tough for some students to understand and synthesize. Thus, if a student’s grade falls to a C- or lower, the student will be required to attend “Gov Club/Econ Club” til the overall grade improves. This club is technically a scheduled meeting between the student and Mrs Oriol to go over tenuous concepts and assignments. The student will schedule the meeting: before school, lunch time, or after school.

**Attendance Policy**

Review the attendance policy as stated in the student handbook. We will look over this policy together to ensure complete understanding.

**Tardiness**

Promptness is a required life skill that you will need to master and an important norm of this class. Demerits will be issued based on amount of tardies, etc. Please refer to the student handbook for any further information on the tardy policy. It will be strictly enforced.

**Misc.**

As per student handbook, recording in the classroom (either audio, visual, or still photos via any device) without teacher approval is strictly forbidden. Violation of this rule will be handled as a privacy violation, per the Categories of Offenses chart. If such a recording is posted online or shared with other individuals, the student may also be subject to legal consequences.

Please sign and return this sheet of paper to Mrs. Oriol for the first assignment of the year.

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to follow the classroom procedures and rules as outlined in this syllabus.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that my student and I have both read this class’s syllabus and will hold my student responsible for what is contained and expected.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_