

CORBETT HIGH SCHOOL

Course Syllabus

AP Government and Politics

Teacher Information:

Name: Mr. Cooper
Email: tcooper@corbett.k12.or.us
Location: Room 17, Corbett High School.
Phone: 503-261-4229 (Voicemail)

Course Description:

What this course is: A deep dive into the inner workings and history of the US Government, its structures, elections, constitutional law, the three branches of government, how political parties, interest groups and the media interact with each other, and a chance to pass an AP exam in the Spring for college credit.

What this course is not: A chance for students or the teacher to rehash the same old arguments, stereotypes and head-bashing that people have been engaging in for over 200 years.

Course Competencies:

- Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context
- Apply Supreme Court decisions
- Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics
- Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources
- Develop an argument in essay format
- Have a deep factual and historical knowledge base in the six units of the class.
 - Constitutional Underpinnings and History
 - Elections and Political Philosophies
 - Congress, Economic and Social Policy
 - The President and Foreign Policy
 - The Courts, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
 - The Media and Political Interest Groups.

Grading System:

The grade is averaged out from two different categories.

Tests and Quizzes:	65% of grade
Work and Projects:	35% of grade

The grading scale operates as follows:

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
79%-70%	C
69%-60%	D
Under 60%	I

Scores of under 60% are given an "I" or "Incomplete" depending on the situation at the end of the trimester, an "Incomplete Plan" Will be given to each student who did not get a passing grade. That plan will vary depending on the student, but it will either consist of a list of the missing work, or if the grade was too low, instructions on how to complete an on-line recovery class. When the recovery plan is completed, the student's grade will be changed to a D.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to be on time to class following the posted Corbett High School schedule. Furthermore, regardless of the reasons for the absence, students are expected to complete all work and assessments for the class, except for extraordinary circumstances. Students who miss significant number of classroom hours should expect to have more difficulty in passing the class.

Classroom Expectations/Behavior:

- Students are held to all District Policies in the Student Handbook
- Students and Staff will maintain a safe environment in the classroom for both themselves and their peers.
- Students and Staff will maintain an environment in the classroom that is conducive to others getting work done and participating.
- Students will be attentive during instruction time.
- Students are to use given classroom time to complete work and ask for assistance when needed
- Students will ask permission and use the provided Exit and Entry Log.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Students are expected at all times to create their own work within the framework of the given assignment. In all circumstances, work that comes from the efforts of others will be rejected without credit. Furthermore, academic dishonesty will result in more strict test and work conditions to verify that repeat offenses do not take place.

Synergy Online Grade Book:

Student grades/missing work is available to be seen at any time in Synergy, our online grade book program. As a general rule, I enter grades as time permits and it can take a day or two for work to appear there. A scored result indicates work has been graded. A "mi" or missing indicates that I have scored the assignments that have been turned in on time and the student's work is missing. A blank box indicates that I have not yet processed that assignment.

As I process thousands of assignments in a trimester, it is certainly possible there might be errors in the grade book. These can happen for a variety of reasons some my mistake, some the student's. If you believe there is a mistake in the grade book, then it is critical you discuss the issue with me directly and in person. I keep an archive of work that has been turned in, and the stack of no-name work. E-mail messages are not an effective way to communicate this kind of problem.

Late Work:

Student late work will be accepted up until the end-of-trimester deadline. Late work is processed after on-time work is turned in. Towards the end of each Trimester, there is usually a spike in the amount of late work that gets turned in, students should expect delays in the time it takes to get their work processed into the grade book.

Tests and Quizzes are a required part of the class. Missing Tests and Quizzes will be entered into the grade book as missing or zero until that test is completed. Tests may only be made up in supervised settings. This is usually after school or in a supervised Study Hall.

Content of Class

The Class is divided into 6 Units. Each unit will have multiple assignments, and each week will usually end in a quiz that covers the major content from that week.

The Units, along with examples of assignments from each are.

- Constitutional Underpinnings: Close reading of the Text, Passing an Amendment, Ranking the Amendments, Check that Power game. Articles of Confederation, Federalist Papers, and The Declaration of Independence, Federalism Cake
- Elections: Structure of US Elections, Election Law, Gerrymandering, Political Socialization, The Seven Philosophies, Mock Election
- Congress, Economic and Social Policy: How a Bill becomes a Law, Balance the Budget, Mock Congress Project, Do your own Taxes!
- The President and Foreign Policy: Presidential Power over the Centuries, Impeachment of President X, Cuban Missile Crisis Simulation, Bureaucracy Research Assignment.
- The Courts, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: Federal Court System, Who Gets to be a JUDGE?!?!, Scripted Mock Trial, So so so many Supreme Court cases to research.
- The Media and Political Interest Groups: CRAAP Sheets, Bias vs Opinion vs Slant, Bias in the Media Assignment.

I have read and agree to these expectations:

_____ (Date)

_____ (Date)