

# American Government and Economic Systems

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## American Government and Economic Systems (AGES)

American Government and Economic Systems (AGES) has taken two separate 9 week courses (American Political Systems) and (Economics) and combined them into one 18 week course. The major goal for the course is to have our students develop the knowledge, skills and habits of mind to become informed, effective decision-makers as well as active participants in America's political and economic system.

### Units of Study

**Note:** *To create a stronger fusion between the two courses, topics from different units may be covered at different points of the course.*

- Unit I:** Foundations of American Government and Economics
- Unit II:** Institutions of Government
- Unit III:** Principles and Functions of the American Market Economy
- Unit IV:** Economic Policy-Making (Measuring and managing our Nation's Economy)
- Unit V:** Influencing the American Political Systems
- Unit VI:** Roles of a Citizen

Common activities in the classroom will include, but are not limited to:

Simulations	Role playing	Game theory
Debates	Classroom discussions	Group work
Research	Current events	Creative writing

Integrating other subjects such as Physics, Math, English, and Nature

The class is designed around a series of enduring understandings and essential questions

And they are broken down into 3 main categories:

- The Individual (Self)
- Interactions (personal and impersonal)
- Systems

## **Daily Assignments:**

There will be daily in class assignments and activities everyday. Students who are absent from class must make up all in class work and activities.

**Homework:** Students can expect homework every night. In most cases homework in this class serves a preview for the next day's lesson and not a review of the previous class.

**Textbook:** Students will not be assigned a textbook. The teacher will direct students to useful internet sites as well as providing supplemental materials. Additionally there will be in class textbooks and online textbooks. Most importantly there will be an online class book.

**Schoolwires:** ALL work resources are found on the schoolwires site. There is supplementary material and a series of online mini lesson videos. Students are advised to enter the address on both their computers and their phones.

<http://www.cbsd.org/Page/7892>

**I encourage both students and parents to visit both the class schoolwires and Infinite Campus on a daily basis.**

## **Assessment**

### **Course Grading Breakdown:**

MP1 (or MP3) = 33%

MP2 (or MP4) = 33%

Core 1 = 10%

Core 2 = 10%

Final Exam = 14%

Final Exam Multiple Choice = 8 %

Final Exam Essay = 6 %

### **Marking period Grading breakdown:**

Your marking period grade will consist of

Summative (Test and Quizzes) – 90%

Formative (graded homework, quizzes and other assessments) - 10%

To be eligible for continuous learning opportunity all work applying to that assessment must be 100% complete prior to the summative assessment.

To be eligible for a letter of recommendation a student must have a homework completion rate of a 95% or higher for the entire course.

### **Continuous learning**

The teacher will provide students who wish to improve their grade on summative assessments and opportunity to partake in a continuous learning program.

The teacher will provide the student an alternative assessment. The student may continuously work on the assessment until the student is satisfied with their level of achievement.

### **Process**

Summative assessment (performance) → grade reported (evaluation) → conference (feedback)  
→ summative assessment → grade reported → conference

The process is continuous throughout a **10 day** window. Students may continue process until the 10<sup>th</sup> day.

### **Criteria to be part of the continuous learning program.**

1. **All** work must have been complete **prior to** 1<sup>st</sup> summative assessment.
2. There must be a student-teacher conference prior to each continuous assessment.

### **Means of Assessment (aside from teachers' unit-based formative and summative assessment)**

Core 1: A briefing report based on research on the topic students have chosen. (CLO)

Core 2: A plan of action that offers a solution addressing the topic students have chosen. (no CLO offered)

Final Exam Objective (no continuous learning offered)

Final Exam Essay (no continuous learning offered)

## **Student Discipline:**

**What sort of behavior does the teacher expect from you everyday?**

**You are expected to:**

1. Be seated in your assigned seat when the bell rings.
2. Be respectful to others. This includes but is not limited to; your fellow students, guests, the teacher, and yourself.
3. Raise your hand to speak.
4. Follow directions the first time they are given.
5. Stay on task.
6. Approach the teacher with any problems or concerns after class and in a respectful manner.

*Please raise your hand to ask permission to use the bathroom. After permission is granted you need to take the pass and fill out the student destination form located at the front of the class.*

*You will be granted four bathroom passes per marking period. Manage these passes wisely.*

## **Rules:**

**The following rules will be strictly enforced. Students will receive no warnings and there will be zero exceptions.**

1. **The use of cell phones is absolutely forbidden. When you enter class, turn your cell phones off and put them in your school bags. If I know you have a cell phone in this class you will receive a detention on the spot. That means not only can't you use it, I cannot hear or see it.**

**It is nothing personal, this rule applies to all students.**

**Note: The exception to this rule is if I allow you to use it for school work.**

2. **If you enter this class late without an excuse note (this means no note or an unexcused note) you will receive a 1 hour detention. If you enter class late during first period with an unexcused note, you will receive an hour detention. The removal of the detention is between you and the administration.**
3. **There is absolutely no food allowed in class.**
4. **I need to see your eyes all of the time. If you sleep expect to receive a 1 hour detention.**

### **What are you expected to do if you are absent?**

1. Approach the teacher before class and inquire about any missing assignments and material. **This is your responsibility not the teacher's.**
2. You will have two school days for every class period missed to make up the work.
3. You are expected to obtain any missing notes.
4. Hand in all late work directly to the teacher prior or after the class.

### **What should you do if you decide not to complete an assignment?**

1. If you make the choice not to do an assignment you may hand the missing work in one class period late for half credit. After the half credit deadline you may hand the missing work in for one point.
2. Hand in all late work directly to the teacher.

### **Quiz and Test Procedures**

1. Quizzes and tests will be announced one to two weeks prior to the date they will be given.
2. You are expected to begin preparing for the test or quiz at that point.
3. There will be an announced review session sometime prior to the test.
4. You must use a pencil or pen (blue or black). Please do not use red ink.
5. If you are absent during the day of the test you must make up the test the following class period upon your return. (See Absent procedures for the work you will miss that day).
6. There is absolutely no talking during the taking of a test or quiz. If you decide to talk your test may be taken.