

Government

Mista Bale

Contact Info:

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Office Hours: Periods #6 and #7, Tutorial, By Appointment (Room 503)



This class is a required course for graduation from Lynbrook High School

Class Synopsis:

This Government class is a study of the major systems and influences that guide our economy. Government (along with Economics) represents the final stage of K-12 Social Studies, and thus seeks to teach students how to understand and become a functional member of our society through the systems covered in the material.

Textbooks:

United States Government: Democracy in Action (Remy)

Hardball (Matthews)

Classroom Rules:

- Be Respectful. This covers your interactions with others in the class, your language, property, personal conduct, and cleaning up after yourself.
- Ask Permission. Before leaving to use the restroom, using your electronic devices (cell phones never allowed), or leaving class for any reason – please check with me first.
- Don't Cheat*. Enough said.

** For this class, students will be expected to abide by the FUHSD Academic Honesty Policy. A copy of the policy is available in the student planner or on the LHS/FUHSD websites. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, using unauthorized materials for assessments, copying material or answers from other students, plagiarism, and submitting work created/completed by others. Additionally, please note that you are held to the standards of the FUSHD technology usage standards – familiarize yourself with these so you keep yourself within proper regulations.*

Policies:

Work Submission:

Most of the time, work will be submitted digitally via Schoology. If you have tech issues, I will always accept a paper copy of your assignment at the start of class. I may have a discussion of the work happen in class, so you'll want to be able to pull up your work in class for reference at times.

Late work:

Late work is generally accepted for 50% credit. The assignment is late if you don't have the completed assignment submitted at the start of your period on the day the assignment is due. Printer problems need to be solved by finishing work early to allow for alternative solutions like printing at a friend's house, printing at school, communicating with MistaBale about a solution, or going to Kinkos. Handle your business.

Returning from Absences:

It will be your job as a student to come to me requesting your makeup work when returning from excused absences. Assignments due while absent will be expected the first day back (see above) unless the assignment was assigned during an absence. Communication is vital and I expect that you come talk with me at the earliest time possible so you can get caught up on work missed.

Test/Project Make-up:

I reserve the right to give you additional assignments that can be completed individually if you miss too much time on a group project. Tests will be given on a date arranged by you and me, but you should be prepared to take a test as soon as you return to class.

Lectures:

Most lectures are available online in an abbreviated format for your use in studying or if you are absent. Some lectures will be watched at home in lue of watching them in class, but you'll always be notified well in advance of these so you can be prepared for class. Students are still expected to be engaged during lectures in class.

Participation:

I look kindly on attitude and work ethic. Students who slack off and rarely contribute can expect a grade that matches their performance. Participation is gauged both by quality and quantity. Part of coming to class means being a contributor to our communal learning environment for the full-length of class. Town Halls are a contributor to participation.

Being Prepared:

Check Schoology daily – although I generally will post assignments, quizzes, and tests well in advance

Cell Phones/Laptops:

Due to security concerns as well as their extreme distraction potential, cell phones will not be allowed in class at any time unless specifically noted. Phones should remain stored away and be turned off or set to a non-audible ring tone. You can hit up your partners later. Laptops will be utilized from time to time for classwork and for assessments when relevant. Generally I will ask that laptops be stored away.

Grading:

All grades are *automatically rounded* within my grading program to the nearest whole number and all grades fall into these pre-set weighted categories. Grade updates will be issued online at my discretion.

Participation – 10%	90-100% - A
Exams - 40%	80-89% - B
(5 Exams)	70-79% - C
Quizzes – 15%	60-69% - D
(~8 Quizzes)	59% or lower – F
Classwork/Homework – 35%	

Note Regarding Tests/Quizzes:
Tests are available for student viewing, but will not be permanently returned. They remain on file for the duration of the semester. Some quizzes may be withheld from being returned but will be available for viewing as well.