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| **Mr. Matt Smith** | |
| **E-mail:** | **msmith@freemansd.org** |
| **Best time to contact you:** | Anytime |
| **Course Title:** | **AP US Government and Politics**  5913 & 5914 (1 credit) |
| **Message Phone:** | (509)291-3721 Ext. 202 |
| **Course Website:** | NA |
| **Course Overview:** | This is a yearlong, comprehensive course examining the following units…  **I. Foundations of American Democracy**  **II. Interactions Among Branches of Government**  **III. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**  **IV. American Political Ideologies and Beliefs**  **V. Political Participation**  Students will be expected evaluate the effectiveness of our system within a contextual framework supported by in-depth discussion and reading of current events. Students will also learn the varied roles and responsibilities of citizenship as they engage in political activity. Beyond the content, this course will also place heavy emphasis on skill-building. We will engage in a great deal of writing, discussion, and learning to analyze and interpret data in a variety of forms for the AP Exam. |
| **Material List:** | Text: *Government In America: People, Politics, and Policy*  Materials: paper, writing utensils, three ring binder for organization, 3x5 Notecards |
| **Classroom Policies and Procedures:** | * **Notebooks** are strongly recommended but they are not evaluated. Work, on a daily basis, will require a tremendous amount of organization. * **Homework:** All assigned reading will be accomplished outside of class. On average, a minimum of 15-30 minutes of independent work, per day, is required to be successful in this course. Unit review sheets will consist of terms to aid students in preparing for tests (notecards = approximately 100 points per Unit). These terms may or may not be on the test but they will prepare you for the broad ideas and concepts you will encounter in examinations. * **Testing:** No electronic devices are allowed in the classroom. Pencils, pens and paper will be provided for every exam. All tests are timed, period. We are preparing for timed examination so we will practice as such. Unit tests are worth 100-120 points (50-60 MC ?’s) and FRQ’s are worth approximately 30 points (1- 2 FRQ’s per unit test). Notecards will be turned in for each unit at test time for points. Quizzes can be given at any point and time and are open note. Test retakes will be allowed, not test corrections. * **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students will complete their OWN work at all times. Failure to abide by that policy will result in the following consequences. First offense, zero score, no credit for assignment, parents will be notified. Second offense: Drop one grade in course, parents will be notified. Third offense: no quarter credit for course. * **Classroom Behavior:** Have an open mind. Think before one responds. Participation is strongly encouraged and there will be ample opportunity to express oneself during lecture, small group and enrichment activities. |
| **Grading Policy:** | Letter grades at Freeman High School generally reflect mastery of skills as defined by state Grade Level Expectations and Essential Academic Learning Requirements.  Grades for this course will follow the adopted district high school grading scale:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | A | 4.0 | 93 to 100% | Distinguished | | A- | 3.7 | 90 to <93% | | B+ | 3.3 | 87 to <90% | Proficient | | B | 3.0 | 83 to <87% | | B- | 2.7 | 80 to <83% | | C+ | 2.3 | 77 to <80% | Apprentice | | C | 2.0 | 73 to <77% | | C- | 1.7 | 70 to <73% | | D+ | 1.3 | 67 to <70% | Novice | | D | 1.0 | 60 to <67% | | F | 0.0 | <60% | | | There will be no rounding between grade levels. | | | |  |  | | --- | | **College Credit can also be earned based on your College Board exam score:**  **5 = extremely well qualified 4 = well qualified 3 = qualified 2 = possibly qualified 1 = not qualified**  The college of your choice will dictate how that College Board examination score will be credited in your program. The $90 examination fee will be paid by each student. Most colleges provide credit for “3, 4, or 5.”  **Grading:** A total point system will be used with the Six Unit examinations, chapter quizzes, research papers, demonstrations, and worksheet applications scored respectively. | |
| **Policies for Make-up or Late Work** | After any absence, you are required to initiate contact with me either in person or via email to obtain appropriate make-up work. You will have the same amount of days you were absent to do your makeup work. |
| **Teacher Comments:** | “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” ― *Thomas Edison* |

Student Signature:

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Parent Signature:

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