American Government

Mr. Canedo – Room #316

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Roosevelt High School

**About Mr. Canedo:**

Welcome! My name is Mr. Canedo and will be your American Government teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. This will be my fourth year here at Roosevelt. In 2016 I graduated from Saint Louis University with a Bachelor’s Degree in History and Secondary Education.

Now, about this school year (or at least the start of it). Yes, it might feel a bit strange going to class through a computer screen. But we will adapt! As long as we are patient and communicate with each other I truly feel that we will have an amazing school year filled with learning and success. Please reach out to me at [christopher.canedo@slps.org](mailto:christopher.canedo@slps.org) if you ever need support.

**Course Description:**

This course will cover a variety of American Government topics. The end goal of this course is to create more aware and active United States citizens. This class will also cover all the required Missouri state learning standards for American Government. This class will also prepare students for the required EOC exam, United States Constitution exam and Missouri State Constitution exam (all of which are required for graduation).

**Departmental Goals**

To become college and career ready (CCR), we must aim for specific goals:

* 80 % or higher mastery percentage on benchmark tests
* 90% or higher average daily attendance
* Additionally, this class is required for graduation. Students must pass the EOC (End of Course) exam, the US Constitution Test, and the Missouri Constitution in order to graduate.

**Virtual Learning Expectations**

This class will be taught and assessed using a variety of different methods. Every class will start with a do-now activity for students to complete in the first five minutes of class. Students will generally submit their responses in the comments section of our online meetings unless I say otherwise. After completing and discussing the do-now as a class, classes will include a combination of lecture, note-taking, group and pair work, close reading, projects, debates, writing assignments, and short films. Classes will typically end with an exit ticket.

**Course Outline**

Chapter 1: Foundations of Government

Chapter 2: Origins of American Government

Chapter 3: The Constitution

Chapter 4: Federalism

Chapter 5: The Legislative Branch

Chapter 6: The Presidency

Chapter 7: The Executive Branch at Work

Chapter 8: The Federal Courts and the Judicial Branch

Chapter 9: The Political Process

Chapter 10: Civil Liberties

Chapter 11: Civil Rights

Chapter 12: Understanding Elections

Chapter 13: Supreme Court Cases

Chapter 14: Making Foreign Policy

Chapter 15: Comparative Political and Economic Systems

Chapter 16: State and Local Government

**Class Materials**

* Textbook: *United States Government: Principles in Practice* (Holt McDougal, 2012)
* A notetaking device (notes can be taken in a notebook or on laptops)

**Non-Negotiable Classroom Policies:**

1. Respect each other and the teacher
2. Be on time and prepared.
3. Be prepared to participate in class
4. No foul language
5. No phones

**Virtual Learning Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to be signed in and ready to start working when class starts.

* 1st Occurrence of not logging in: Classroom teachers will contact the student via email and document attendance in SIS and the Shared Attendance Tracker.
* 2nd Occurrence of not logging in: Classroom teachers will follow step 1 and alert the Advisory teacher. The Advisory teacher will contact student/parent via phone and email and document contact in SIS and the Shared Attendance Tracker.
* 3rd + Occurrence of not logging in: Advisory teacher will complete an electronic referral to Attendance Team. At this point the Attendance Team will decide the next step which can include an email, virtual conference, phone call home, home visit to asses why the student has not participated in instruction and to provide solutions to students in need. All steps taken by the Attendance Team will be logged into SIS and the Shared Attendance Tracker

**Synchronous Time (Live, Guided Instruction from Teacher)**

1. You must be present for EVERY class meeting you are scheduled for. If you are not present, you may be marked absent or tardy.
2. Only the teacher may start a class meeting, do not attempt to start a meeting early. The teacher should be the one to open a meeting.
3. There will be a do now posted every day in your Teams channel for your class period. You should respond to this prompt within the first five minutes of the scheduled class session. (you can do it earlier, if you'd like!)
4. You are expected to actively participate in discussion and in answering questions, just like an in-person class. If you do not respond promptly, either in a written chat message or using your microphone, you will lose participation points.
5. If you are not speaking, you must mute your microphone to eliminate background noise.
6. If you choose to have your camera on, be aware of your background. Try to choose a place in your home where people will not be frequently walking by and has a blank background (preferably against a wall.) You may be dressed comfortably, but make sure your outfits are appropriate.
7. In both the chat and in verbal communication, language and discourse should be respectful and academic, no profanity or off topic conversation will be tolerated. You could be muted and referred for such behavior.

**Asynchronous Time (Independent Work)**

1. Complete all asynchronous work before the specified deadline. If you need more time or need help, please talk to your teacher.
2. You may be assigned to a small group work session during this time, if you are, make sure that all expectations of the synchronous session are obeyed.
3. Collaboration is allowed, but any evidence of be plagiarism or "copying" will be dealt with by forcing a resubmission and could result in getting a zero for the assignment.
4. Because we are working with technology, you may use your internet resources to help you answer questions. HOWEVER, you cannot copy something word for word. Make sure you rewrite the answer in your own terms and take care that you actually understand the answer, and aren't just typing it down.
5. If you need help during YOUR asynchronous time, email me! If you need help any other time, reach out to me during one of my plan periods.

**Challenging Classroom Behaviors**

Challenging behavior is behavior that (a) interferes with the student’s learning or the learning of others, (b) hinders positive social interactions and relationships, or (c) harms the student, peers, or adults. The following steps will be taken to redirect a student’s challenging behavior:

* Step 1: Verbal Warning

You will be told to stop the behavior and make a better choice

* Step 2: Conference (documented in SIS)

You and I will have a hallway conference about this behavior, to hopefully understand why it is occurring.

* Step 3: Referral/ Parent Contact (documented in SIS)

I will be emailing your disciplinarian and/or your coach, which will be followed up with the office. Then I will be calling your parent/ guardian about the behavior.

**Grading:**

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: Below 60%

**Late Work:**

All classwork, homework, projects, etc. are expected to be turned in on their announced due-dates. Homework should be ready to turn in at the start of class on its due-date. Late work will be penalized a letter-grade every day it is late. The fifth day, the assignment will be considered missing and will receive a zero.

Students may make up work missed due to excused absences; however, it is the students responsibility to ask me for said work. Students will be given one day for each day’s excused absence to complete missing work.

**Extra Credit:**

While extra credit opportunities will come up over the course of the year, they will be given at the discretion of the teacher. These will typically consist of an in-depth reading and written response

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**Contract and Acknowledgement of Syllabus**

We have read through this syllabus together and know what is required. If there are any questions about what is required, I know that Mr. Canedo can be reached by emailing him. Should there be any problems, it is known that Mr. Canedo will call home and request the assistance of the parent or legal guardian who has signed this agreement. Without the help and support of the parent, I cannot succeed as a teacher, and your child cannot succeed as a student.

**Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Name (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Name (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Telephone # and Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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