Course Syllabus: 2019-2020 Academic Year
11th Grade Government and Economics

Mr. Huesken
Office Hours – M-F 2:40 – 3:25 @ Room 1925 (except on Wednesdays)
Social Studies Department - Elizabethtown Area High School
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Website(s):
- Website @ the EAHS webpage (Look under “Teacher Website” tab, look for “Huesken”)
- Mr. H’s Schoology Government & Economics Page
- Twitter Account: www.twitter.com/mrhuesken
- Remind.com: More information / sign up requirements to come

Course Overview: This course provides students with experiences to study individual rights provided to them by the United States Constitution and other related laws. Students will deal with the direct and indirect effects that government has on your everyday lives, what rights you possess as an American citizen, and what responsibilities each citizen has to their government on the local, state and national levels. Students will also examine the basic ideals of our global economy and what effects these ideals have not just on our government, but also our everyday lives. Other relevant topics included in this course include the elections / voter registration process, United States foreign policy, and social issues that concern young adults and all Americans.
- Unit I: Basic Principles of Economics (Macro/Micro)
- Unit II: Political Parties, Ideology, Elections, and Voting
- Unit III: Public Policy, Political History, & Government (National / State)
- Unit IV: Constitutional Law & Criminal Justice

Course References –

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**Method of Grading and Participation**- Since a majority of the students who take this course are upper classmen (seniors), this course will be an opportunity for you to challenge yourself as a student and gain experience for your future educational endeavors. A lot of emphasis will be placed on reading of primary source documents and current events, interpretation of paintings and visual aids, video presentations on taking a side or position on an issue, and the creation and communication of your own thoughts and opinions. Debates, classroom discussions, and projects are major elements in this process also. This area is meant to broaden your horizons, polish skills of reading, writing, and communication that all good employers look for, and give you a taste of what you can expect if you plan to go on to a post-high school career at a college or university.

**Grading**- Grading is done on a points system. Each assignment is worth a set number of points. The points you earn on an assignment will be divided by a possible number of points and multiplied by 100 to get a percentage (%). The grading setup is listed below:

- A = 100% - 92%
- B = 91% - 83%
- C = 82% - 74%
- D = 73% - 65%
- F = 64% or below

**Mr. Huesken’s Expectations**- When it comes to how class will be run, my expectations revolve around the ancient Greek idea of “arête”, which was made famous by such great Greek philosophers as Plato and Aristotle. This idea stresses that each person performs a task to the best of their ability in order not only to better their own lives but the lives of others in their society.

The idea behind this is that if you give this course your best effort, your labors will not only be helpful to you, but also to your peers and classmates.

- COME TO CLASS ON TIME AND PREPARED!!!! (90% of life is being on time!)
- Respect those around you - peers, ideas, and property. Be mindful of your presentation both in work and how you present yourself in class.
- Have work ready to hand in on time and completed. Make up work should be completed in a timely manner as decided on by Mr. H
- Participate as much as you can in classroom activates!!!!!
- Ask questions if you are confused about something and express your concerns in a **constructive** and **responsible** manner (Be an advocate for your education!!!!!)
- Come with a good attitude!!!! (ATTITUDE IS AS IMPORTANT AS WORK ETHIC)
- TRY AND FIND SOMETHING FUN OR INTERESTING!!!!!!
Exams – Exams are an important part of any course you will take either in high school or if you plan to go on to a post-secondary institution after high school (four-year university, two-year college, technical school, etc.) Each unit we cover in class will typically have an end of unit exam with exam dates set by Mr. H. Current Event quizzes are also given each week, typically on Fridays.

- Study guides are given out in advance of unit tests with a test breakdown of points and questions. Questions should be asked prior to the testing date or during office hours.
- Mr. H does reserve the right to give “pop quizzes” if deemed necessary.

Assignment / Homework- All homework or outside assignments are expected to be turned in on time and completed. If for whatever reasons you are absent, check the “side board” in Mr. H’s room and collect your make up work. Be sure also to check Schoology for up-to-date information.

- Students will be issued a Homework Checklist at the start of each week with all assignments and activities for the week. Budget your time accordingly.
- Work will be turned in via Mr. H’s Schoology site by the assigned due date. Requirements and sign-up information will be posted at a later date. Hard copies of assignments (unless stipulated by extenuating circumstances) WILL NOT be accepted.

Make-Up / Late Work Policy – As an upper-classmen at Elizabethtown Area High School, it is your responsibility as a young adult to come see Mr. H either during homeroom, flex, or at the end of the day during office hours if you are absent, collect materials that you might have misses, or set up a time to make up an exam or project. I WILL NOT CHASE AFTER YOU!!!

- If you have a family conflict, a prior appointment, meeting or other issue, please talk to Mr. H in advance so accommodations can be made. This is your responsibility.
- Late World Policy- Ten percent (10%) will be deducted for every day that an assignment is turned in late, unless you speak to me in advance. Assignments completed in class or done in class the morning of will automatically receive late credit.

Class work- Work in class, whether it is a movie sheet, a classroom debate, or an out-the-door activity, are often collected and graded. Group work and in-class activities such as debates or presentations are also graded so work together and give everything your best shot.

- If an in-class assignment becomes homework, you are also still responsible for completing it on time. Homework passes DO NOT work in this situation.

Restroom / Hallway Procedure- Students are required to have an agenda or a pass from another teacher / administrator in order to leave the classroom during class or flex. Students will also be required to sign Mr. H’s hallway logbook before leaving the room.
Ongoing Activities / Projects for the Semester:

1. **Current Events Log (100 points total):** Every **Tuesday** and **Thursday,** we will have an in-class discussion on current events going on in the world around us. Your task between those times will be to search national and international media outlets to find events of regions and global importance. Students will turn in their Logs periodically for monthly checks for content and to measure project progress. At the end of the semester, students will be turning in their completed Logs for an overall final grade. It is suggested you keep a separate folder / binder for all current events. More information on the overall structure, grading, write-up strategies, and good news sources to come.

2. **Class Notebooks (50 points total)** - All students are required to keep a notebook for this class. This notebook will allow students to become more independent and creative thinkers while also helping them stay organized in class. To receive a positive grade for the notebook, students must not only have a complete and thorough notebook, but one that is also neat, colorful, and creative. More information on notebook collections / grading structure to come.

3. **Class Journals (100 points total):** This is another way for students to foster more independent thought and interaction with the material of the course. Entries will be done both inside and outside of class, depending on the assignment. **Journals will be collected twice (once at mid-term and once at the end of the semester) during the course of the semester for grading at fifty (50) points apiece.**

4. **Miscellaneous Projects (points will vary on circumstance):** Document / evidence-based “fishbowl” debates, simulations, video production project, “film study”, online discussion board posting, etc.
Discipline Policy –

- **PHASE ONE** –
  - Teacher Detention: Teacher detentions are served after school from 2:45pm to 3:15pm in Room 1925. Bring homework for that evening, make-up work, current event entries, etc. to work on during this time. If no work is brought, Mr. H will provide other work for the duration of the detention.

- **PHASE TWO** -
  - Administrative Detention: If a student fails to come to a Teacher Detention or amasses three (3) or more Teacher Detentions they are referred to the Assistant Principles Office for an Administrative Detention.

- **PHASE THREE** -
  - Joint-Conference: Sit-down conference with you and your parents to decide on a joint-course of action. This stage may also include disciplinary action from the District level regarding behavior or a plan of attack for the future.

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**Cell Phones / Chromebook / In-Class Electronics Policy** - At the start of each class period, Mr. H will ask that all cell phones, Chromebooks, and electronic devices be voluntarily put away or deposited in the “Cell Block” at the back of the classroom. Mr. H also provides this “block” as a charging stations to promote this idea of student focus on the course material and classroom activity / discussion rather than the temptation of one’s personal electrics or digital life (aka Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.).

- If a student choses to keep an electronic device at their seat, it must be away and out of sight during instructional time, unless otherwise stipulated.

- If a device is out and in use during class time not specifically sanctioned by Mr. H, a class warning (for a first offense) will be issued. After that, a request to deposit the electronic device in the “Cell Block”, a teacher confiscation, and / or a disciplinary write-up (for all other offenses) with the High School Office will follow – **often without a secondary warning**.

Students who fail to comply with this policy will be written up for the electronics violation as well as insubordination from a classroom instructor.
**Digital Code of Conduct** – With the introduction of the High School’s new 1-to-1 Chromebook program and since a majority of students now conduct their work via Google Docs, Schoology, and other online learning platforms, several “gray areas” have opened up in terms of student usage and application of technology, raising new questions of academic integrity. The following points will be observed in Mr. H’s classroom regarding student technology, digital work, and academic integrity:

1) An understanding that technology is a privilege not a right in the classroom and that all students will have access to it, but not all the time. This is in keeping with the privileges and consequences already listed above in the student in-class electronics policy.

2) That when using digital technology and communications as part of a classroom assignment or online discussion, students will observe established etiquette norms provided by Mr. H to ensure that all communications are done in the spirit of learning and academic growth.

3) That all student created work will be original and not be considered a violation of the High School’s established policies on academic integrity or plagiarism.

4) That the sharing of materials on Google Docs or via student email is not simply the passing of finished work on to another student, but suggestions, tips, and notes provided to assist, not enable.

**Mr. H’s Chromebook Expectations for the Classroom:**

5) Please be sure to have your Chromebook charged and ready to go for class. Power cords are not provided, nor is every outlet in Mr. H’s room a charging station.

6) Be sure to bring headphones or earbuds with you to class. These are also not provided by Mr. H should you forget.

7) Chromebooks should not be out 24/7. There will be times for student use, but there will also be times for student instruction.

8) Should a student forget their Chromebook any of the accompanying materials, they are responsible for all make-up materials per the course requirements.
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

STUDENTS-
As not just a Gov. & Econ student, but as a High School upperclassman, I am aware that there are certain requirements that I must follow in order to be successful in this course. By attaching my signature to this document, I understand the following expectations:

• I understand and will strive to keep in line with the expectations laid out by Mr. Huesken so that not just I can work to the best of my ability, but my classmates can as well. I understand that DOING ONE’S BEST IS AN OBLIGATION, NOT AN OPTION.

• I have reviewed the classroom rules and procedures for grading, exams, late work, etc. and understand what Mr. Huesken is expecting of me. I will strive to meet these requirements and work to the best of my ability within this framework.

• I have reviewed Mr. Huesken’s policies towards classroom management and discipline and will strive to be an active advocate for my own education, but do so in a respectful, responsible, and mature manner that is also keeping with the culture of the course and my high school.

• I understand that attitude, work ethic, focus, maturity, and organization will all be essential elements in my success in this course. I will strive to not only diligently keep up with my classroom, but also to keep an open mind to both the material being taught and the thoughts and feelings of my fellow students. My attitude in class with reflect my desire to be treated as a “young adult”, rather than an “older child”.

****By signing this contract, I acknowledge and hold myself accountable to all the points made above and endeavor to make my experience in Mr Huesken’s class more than just a “like” or “dislike” of history, but to broaden my view of the world and society I live in and my horizons as a student, which is the basis behind all education. I do so willingly with the attached signature of my Parent or Guardian as a understanding of an educational partnership for the length of this semester-long contract. Violations of this contract will be included with a student’s disciplinary record to be accessible to parents and administrators.

STUDENT’S NAME (Please print): ___________________________________________________

STUDENT SIGNATURE: ____________________________________________________________

PARENT’S NAME (Please print): __________________________________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ____________________________________________________________
Greetings Students / Parents-

I hope that all of you have had an enjoyable holiday season and are as eager as I am for the start of a new semester. In accordance with Elizabethtown School District policy, I have provided for you and your son / daughter an outline of my expectation for the course and what some of their major assignments over the course of the semester will be. I hope that you will refer back to this packet during the course of the class to help make your student successful. In order to help make my job as their teacher successful, I have included a tentative list of feature films / documentaries we may be using in class to help in our exploration of US politics, economics, and social issues. All titles with write-ups can be found online at the following address: http://bit.do/GovFilmList

Feel free to review this tentative list and feel free to e-mail if you have any questions. I would also encourage you to consider signing up for Remind.com, the free text messaging service that provides classroom updates right to your phone or email. Instructions are available or Mr. H’s site and at this semester’s Parent’s Night. If you would like information emailed to you, please check the box below. I look forward to working with you this semester.

**Directions:** Please read over the syllabus with your student, complete the area below, and return this sheet to Mr. H by _______________. By signing this sheet, you have given your permission for students to see all attached video assignments and to freely give your contact information.

PARENT’S NAME (Please print): _________________________________________________

PARENT’S E-MAIL (if available): _______________________________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: _______________________________________________________

☐ I would like reminders from Remind.com

*Remind is a free, text alert service provided by this instructor to keep parents / students informed of upcoming due dates, schedules, and deadlines. If you would like to receive these updates, please provide a cell number in the space provided*