

2019-2020 Course Syllabus: US Government/Economics  
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Infinite Campus: [https://campus.scusd.edu/campus/portal/sacramento\\_city.jsp](https://campus.scusd.edu/campus/portal/sacramento_city.jsp)

*The most important political office is that of the private citizen.*

-- Louis Brandeis (1856-1941), Supreme Court Justice

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to C K McClatchy High School for the 2019-2020 school year! I am happy to have your child in my US Government/Economics class. This syllabus will help to familiarize you with the content, policies, and expectations your student will find in our classroom.

Course Content. This is a one semester US Government and one semester Economics class and will be based on the State of California standards for US Government and Economics. Successful completion of this course is required for graduation. At the end of each semester there will be a comprehensive exam of all the subject matter covered in the course.

Textbook: Magruder's American Government by Prentice Hall and Economics Principles in Action by Prentice Hall, with supplemental materials. Students are expected to bring their textbook to class every day once it is issued.

*I am tired of hearing it said that democracy doesn't work. Of course it doesn't work.*

*We are supposed to work it.*

-- Alexander Woollcott (1887-1943), American critic and *The New Yorker* commentator

Materials. Students need to have the following materials each day for this class:

1. Black or blue ink pen and a red ink correcting pen and #2 Pencils (for scantron tests);
2. Folders with clasps and side pockets for each unit;
3. Binder paper.

These materials will be available in class with a suggested donation of \$0.10 for writing utensils and \$0.25 for folders. Binder paper is generally available for all students in class. Please contact me if you have any questions about materials for class.

All class work is to be completed in black or blue ink. Unless specific instructions state otherwise, writing assignments may be typed double-spaced or written clearly in ink. Any writing assignment that is turned in using a non-standard black or blue ink will be returned to the student without being graded and will be considered "late".

Classroom Behavior Standards. In addition to following the school rules and academic code of conduct at all times, the following behaviors are expected in our classroom:

1. **Students will be in their seats when the bell rings with electronics and related devices off and put away.** Parents, if you need to speak to your child, please call the school and the message will be delivered to your child as promptly as possible.
2. **Students will listen attentively and show respect.** Students will be courteous of and show respect for their teacher, fellow classmates, and visitors. No student has the right to prevent another student from learning. Profanity, inappropriate language, put-downs, and other harmful language will not be tolerated.
3. **Students will never settle for less than their best.** I have high expectations for my students. Students should have the same high expectations for themselves. Each assignment should receive a student's best effort.
4. **Students will leave the room in proper condition.** Many people work to provide students a neat, clean classroom environment. Make sure the classroom remains this way when you leave.

5. **No food or drink will be allowed in the classroom.** Bottled water is acceptable in class.

If students choose not to follow classroom behavior standards, consequences may include, but are not limited to, any of the following: warning, informal student/teacher conference, lunch detention, parent phone call, after school detention, or referral to the school administration for further action.

*The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.*

—Robert M. Hutchins, *Great Books*, 1954

Make-up Work. Students are responsible for make-up work, including tests and quizzes, with an excused absence. If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, the missed assignment is due the day they return to class. Otherwise, you will have as many days to make up an assignment as you were absent.

Late Work. Late work will **NOT** be accepted unless otherwise noted in the assignment or by myself to the class. Work not turned in due to an excused absence is not considered late as long as it is turned in during the allocated make-up time. If a student needs to turn in an assignment late, they need to make arrangements **in advance** with me.

No Name Assignments. Papers turned in without a name will be thrown away. They will not be graded and no attempts will be made to find their owner.

Grading: Grades will be based on accumulated points earned through the completion of class assignments, group projects, presentations, unit projects, tests, etc. Assignments in this class are weighted only by the amount of points they are worth.

Letter grades are based on each student's earned percentage of possible points and translate to the following scale:

A = 90% - 100% B = 80% - 89% C = 70% - 79% D = 60% - 69% F = 0% - 59%

All percentages will be those based on the calculations of Infinite Campus. I do not "round up" grades.

Students who are successful in this class:

1. Do not allow themselves to fall behind and set aside time every day for their school work;
2. Have their homework and materials ready at the start of each class;
3. **Read the textbook;**
4. Ask questions if they do not understand;
5. Get help if they are having trouble (i.e., making time to see their teacher outside of class time).

Remind application. I will be using an on-line application called remind. There are two ways to join (both students and parents):

1. Text @ge-2020 to 81010 for text messages (text message and data rates may apply), and/or
2. With your internet browser, go to <http://remind.com/join/ge-2020>

You will be prompted to complete the registration process by Remind.

Final Thoughts. I want your student to be successful in my class and I will do everything possible to ensure that success. Parents are encouraged to visit **during** class time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or stop by during Back to School Night scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2019, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Sincerely,

John M°Cumiskey  
US Government/Economics