



# **Reseda High School**

## **Law and Public Service Magnet**

**Honors Government/Economics**  
**Instructor: L. Davis**

Welcome to Honors Government and Economics. Below you will find course requirements and a brief course of study. As a survey course we will explore the political and economic structures and practices of the United States.

Honors Government and Economics is a yearlong course designed for students who plan on attending college/university after high school. This course will provide opportunities to develop analysis and communication skills expected at the university level.

### **Course Description:**

Honors US History covers American History from the 1600s to the present. Throughout the year students will study various historical themes with emphasis on the development of the American legal system in regard to the functions of government and fiscal policy. We will look at how American law has changed over time in application to various groups. The role of women, federal civil rights and changing international economic policy will be of special interest in this course. Below you will find essential information in regards to the grading/assignment policies, attendance, materials needed and unit information.

### **Course Outline:**

We will return to themes throughout the course. They will help to bring structure and continuity to our historical inquiries.

1. Impact of interaction among and within major societies
  - a. How do societies change and respond to external and internal events?
2. Impact of technology, economics, demography on people and the environment
  - a. How are people and places shaped by changes within society?
3. Systems of social structure and gender structures
  - a. How does social expectations shape the lives of different classes of society?
4. Cultural, religious, and intellectual developments.
  - a. How do people think differently over time?

5. Changes in functions and structures of state and in attitude toward states and political identities, including the emergence of the nation-state.
  - a. How does the development of national identity shape policy?
6. The emergence of Law structures around the world
  - a. How do other countries create and enforce laws?

### **Unit Outline:**

- I. Foundations of Democracy (C.S.S. 12.1.1,3,4,6; 12.2.1)
  - i. Principals of Government
    1. Government and the State
    2. Forms of Government
    3. Basic Concepts of Democracy
  - ii. Origins of American Government
    1. The Political Beginning
    2. The Coming of Independence
      - a. The Declaration of Independence
    3. The Critical Period
    4. Creating the Constitution
    5. Ratifying the Constitution
  - iii. The Constitution
    1. The Six Basic Principals
    2. Formal Amendment
    3. Constitutional Change by Other Means
  - iv. Federalism
    1. Federalism: The Division of Power
    2. The National Government and the 50 States
    3. Interstate Relations
      - a. *ATF and the FBI*
- II. The Judicial Branch (C.S.S. 12.2.1; 12.4.5,6; 12.5.1,3,4)
  - i. The Federal Court System
    1. The National Judiciary
    2. The Supreme Courts
  - ii. Civil Liberties: First Amendment Freedoms
    1. The Unalienable Rights
    2. Freedom of Religion
    3. Freedom of Speech and Press
    4. Freedom of Assembly and Petition
      - a. *The Democratic Convention of 1968 - Chicago*
  - iii. Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights
    1. Due Process of Law
      - a. *Miranda v. Arizona*
    2. Freedom of Security of the Person
    3. Rights of the Accused
    4. Punishment
      - a. *Juvenile v. Adult Crime and Punishment*
      - b. *3 Strikes Laws*

- iv. Civil Rights: Equal Justice Under Law
  - 1. Diversity and Discrimination in American Society
  - 2. Equality Before the Law
- III. The Legislative Branch (C.S.S. 12.4.1,2,3; 12.7.3,4)
  - i. Congress
    - 1. The National Legislature
    - 2. The House of Representatives
    - 3. The Senate
    - 4. The Members of Congress
  - ii. Powers of Congress
    - 1. The Scope of Congressional Powers
    - 2. Expressed Powers
      - a. *Border Patrol*
      - b. *ATF*
      - c. *FBI*
    - 3. The Implied Powers
    - 4. The Non-legislative Power
  - iii. Congress in Action
    - 1. How A Bill Becomes a Law: The House
    - 2. The Bill in the Senate
- IV. The Executive Branch (C.S.S. 12.4.4; 12.7.2)
  - i. The Presidency
    - 1. The President's Job Description
    - 2. Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency
    - 3. Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan
    - 4. The Election
  - ii. The Presidency in Action
    - 1. The Growth of Presidential Powers
    - 2. The President's Executive Powers
    - 3. Military Powers
    - 4. Legislative and Judicial Powers
  - iii. Financing Government
    - 1. Taxes
    - 2. Nontax Revenues and Borrowing
    - 3. Spending and the Budget
  - iv. Foreign Policy and National Defense
    - 1. Foreign Affairs and National Policy
      - a. *Drug Trafficking*
      - b. *Child/Human Trafficking*
    - 2. Other Foreign and Defense Agencies
      - a. *CIA*
      - b. *NSA*
    - 3. American Foreign Policy Overview
    - 4. Foreign Aid and Defense Alliances

## **Grading Policy:**

Your grade will be determined by points received on homework, quizzes, tests, projects and writing assignments. You will have daily homework that will range from reading and note taking to outlining and vocabulary. This is essential to ensure that you keep up with the class and that material is covered in a timely fashion. Quizzes can be administered randomly, testing whether a student has done their homework or whether they have paid attention in class that day. There will be a test given at the end of every unit, which translates into eight exams. Unit exams will carry a higher number of points. There will be 1-2 writing assignments issued every 5 weeks, giving each student time to develop their thesis and master their writing skills. In addition to these individual assignments, there will, on occasion, be a group project. Grades will be given on a percentage scale as follows:

A 100 – 90%

B 89 – 80%

C 79 – 70%

D 69 – 60%

F 59% - and lower

Work Habit grades will be given based on assignments; an E will be given to a student with zero missing assignments in a grading period, an S will be given to a student with one to three missing assignments in a grading period, and a U will given to any student with more then three missing assignments in a given grading period.

**Late Work: You may only turn in late work for a current grading period. Quizzes and tests must be made up within a week of your absence. You will have to take the missed quiz at nutrition on Wednesday and missed tests on Friday at lunch. Keep in mind that if you miss a test, you will only have a fourth of the time to make it up.**

## **Attendance Policy:**

You are required to follow the attendance policy of the school. Your attendance will have a direct connection to your semester grade. You will receive participation points that are determined on whether you are in class or not. If you are not in class you cannot participate. 2 points will be given per class period and 1 point will be given if you are tardy to class. If you fail to show up to class, with the exception being a school-approved activity, you will not receive points for the day. In order to be successful, you must attend class on a regular basis.

## **Materials Needed:**

1. Three ring binder
2. Divider Tabs
  - a. Class Notes
  - b. Newspaper Articles
  - c. Group Reports
  - d. Readings
  - e. Reading Reflections
  - f. Reports/Essays
3. Agenda/Organizer
4. Covered Textbook

**Materials Recommended:**

5. Flash Drive
6. An email address to communicate with the instructor
7. Colored Pencils and a ruler for maps and projects.

**Reseda High School ESLRS**

In my class, students do much of their work in cooperative learning groups. I believe this type of activity helps students to learn how to do History while learning how to achieve the Reseda High School ESLRS:

- I. Effective Communicators-*Speak with Kindness and intelligence*
- II. Critical Thinkers-*Dare to create*
- III. Self-Directed Learners-*Take initiative*
- IV. Responsible Citizens-*Be a good neighbor*
- V. Healthy Individuals-*Sleep Smart, Eat Smart, Move Smart*