### **American Government**

Fall Semester 2022

Mr. Zavala

Room 407

Jaime.zavala@lausd.net

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of American government, the American political process and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. It is a one semester course offered primarily to senior students. The course is designed to meet the state standards in social studies in the area of government, is a required course for graduation from high schools within LAUSD, and will help prepare students for a college level government course. Additionally, this course also serves to create more informed citizens who are prepared to experience the challenges and joys that come from being an actively involved citizen. The following are topics that will be addressed in this course:

* Roots of democracy
* Principles of U.S. government
* Role and structure of government
* Three Branches of Government: Executive, Legislative, Judicial
* Forms of government
* Political Parties
* Local and state government structure and processes
* Sovereign status of American Indian nations
* Provisions of the U.S. Constitution, Amendments and Bill of Rights
* Definition, rights and responsibilities of citizenship
* Voting and Elections
* Historic and current public policy issues
* U.S. in world affairs

**What you should bring to class everyday:**

* + textbook
	+ spiral bound notebook
	+ pen, pencil, eraser
	+ loose leaf paper

**Expectations:**

Ø Follow all school-wide rules, including no cell phones, electronics, language, dress code, food and academic honesty will be enforced in this class.

Ø Come to class on time everyday.

Ø Bring all necessary materials to class every day: Textbook, notebook, pen/pencil.

Ø Be respectful towards yourself, others and property. Clean up after yourself.

**RESTROOM/HALL PASS**

Restroom passes will not be allowed during the first/last 15 minutes of class. In order to go to the restroom, you will need to stay 5 minutes after class.

**Grading:** Grades are based on a point system. All assignments will contribute to your overall grade. Assignments include, but are not limited to, class work, warm-ups, homework assignments, projects, class participation, quizzes and tests.

**Grade Categories:**

Class work

Quizzes

Projects

Tests

Essays/write-ups

**The grading scale:**

90 - 100% = A Advanced

80 - 89% = B Proficient

70 - 79% = C Emerging

60 - 69% = D Developing

0 - 59% = F

**STUDENT UNDERSTANDING (STUDENT RECEIPT)**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first and last name) have read this syllabus and understand that there are certain expectations that Mr. Benkovich has of me through the period of this course. By signing this I have read and understand the expectations of the course.

PRINT NAME AND DETACH TEACHER COPY BELOW

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

**STUDENT UNDERSTANDING (TEACHER RECEIPT)**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first and last name) have read this syllabus and understand that there are certain expectations that Mr. Benkovich has of me through the period of this course. By signing this I have read and understand the expectations of the course.