

2017-2018 CHEF Co-op

Government

Instructor: Jody Lantz

Class Code : GVT350

Co-teacher?

Tuition : \$15

Length of Class (1st sem/ 2nd sem/both)

spring

Materials Fee : \$13

Description

This class starts with a brief overview of types of governments and then focuses on helping students understand the founding and current workings of our government in America, including ways for individuals to be involved. Class time will include class discussion, pair/group work, quizzes, and videos with notetaking. The videos are from the series *A Noble Experiment*. Instruction on notetaking will be provided and quality notetaking will be encouraged throughout the semester. The final unit centers around the movie *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. Class time may also be used occasionally for guest speakers.

Typical homework will consist of completing assignments in the *A Noble Experiment Student Workbook* (especially focusing on excerpts from original founding documents) and short writing assignments connecting class content to current events. There will occasionally be in-class or take-home quizzes during the semester.

Before the start of the semester, students will have an assignment to read chapters 1-4 of *Uncommon Decency* by Richard Mouw, preferably with parental involvement. Most class content is not expected to directly address hot-button topics. However, recognizing that the course includes current events, a range of topics may arise and/or students may see a range of articles while looking for ones to use for homework. The aim of this assignment is to set the tone for class where we can discuss issues that students may have different opinions on, but discuss them in a civil manner that respects the speaker and those being spoken about while not needing to compromise one's values.

Grading Policy

Standard Policy

X

Specific Policy

Enrollment:

8

Max: 16

Pre-Requisites: 8th to 12th grade

Required Text:

A Noble Experiment: The History and Nature of the American Government Student Activity Book by Zeezok Publishing (workbook only--approximately \$19.99 from the publisher) & and *Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World* by Richard Mouw from Intervarsity Press (parental involvement in reading recommended).

Additional Materials:

Students will need a 3 ring notebook or a spiral notebook + folder. For current event assignments, students will need access to news articles through the internet, a newspaper subscription, a magazine subscription, etc. Additionally, two separate and optional (but highly encouraged) trips are planned. One is to the state capital in Harrisburg. The other is to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Transportation will be the responsibility of each family (to drive or arrange with other families to carpool) along with food for the trips. No admission cost is anticipated for the Harrisburg trip. The admission fee for the Constitution Center can be paid close to the time of the trip.

Contact Information

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