

Ayala High School  
Ms. Taja

## Course Syllabus & Expectations for Economics/US Government

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### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

**\*Economics:** Most people think economics is about money. But it is not that simple. Economics is about making choices. It is the social science concerned with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Economics focuses on the behavior and interactions of economic agents and how economies work. We will learn a lot about the US economy, but we also study the global economy in depth. You must have an understanding of how economies all over the globe work to truly understand American economics.

**\*US Government:** Government impacts our lives every day. Understanding how our American government works and the history of our democracy is vital to becoming a contributing member of society. Although this course focuses on American government, we will look at governments across the globe. We live in a rapidly changing world. Each member of society plays a role in that world. What do you want your role to be? The success of Democracy depends on its citizen's understanding and participation. Is voting a duty or a privilege? You decide.

### CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

Keep focused on the main goal. I want you to know I am on your side; I want you to succeed. To do that you need to think positively and try to learn something new every day. Each time you start a new class, try to make a real connection to the material. You will be surprised what a difference it will make for your learning curve. And that is why we are here after all...to LEARN. If you are not learning, you are wasting your time and I do not want to see you do that.

**What you will need:** The materials you will need include the following: a single-subject spiral notebook, blue/black pens, pencils, colored pencils, notebook paper, highlighters, and your textbook (if we do not have a "class set").

### INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK:

For the purpose of this class, you will keep an Interactive Notebook. You will need a single-subject spiral notebook JUST FOR THIS CLASS! Interactive Notebooks are meant to enable you to be a creative, independent thinker and writer. You will want to pour all your effort and energy into your notebook. It is also the biggest part of your grade. You will use your notebook for notes as well as drawings to include pictures, charts and graphs, and other activities. Please do not lose this notebook. It is your lifeline for this class.

**Specific Notebook directions/Very important:** I expect all work in your Notebook to be hand-written and pictures detailed, accurate and colorful. Use a pen and write clearly and large enough for me to see easily.

\*I will elaborate more on specific directions related to your Interactive Notebook at a later date.

**Left side/right side orientation:** The **left side** of your notebook will be the input side. All new information will go here which is comprised mainly of your hand-written lecture notes. The **right side** will be the output side of your notebook. This could include anything from pictures and graphic organizers to the analysis of Landmark Supreme Court cases. This is where you “process” the new information from our lectures/discussions.

**Labeling:** It is super important that you **LABEL your sections correctly**. I cannot grade your notebook adequately if you do not tell me which section I am grading. Begin notes for each class meeting on a clean (left side) page.

**How to get a good grade on your NOTEBOOK:** A student who expects to get a **B or higher** on their notebook will keep a complete, neat, organized notebook that exudes quality and follows all expectations set out by me.

### BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES:

In order to make this a successful semester I need your involvement and cooperation. I expect all students to be courteous and sensitive of your classmates. Be supportive and encourage others.

*\*With this in mind remember the following:*

We will follow the school policy regarding cell phones and other electronics.

**Plagiarism/cheating** will not be tolerated. **DO YOUR OWN WORK!**

Due dates are to be kept. I will give plenty of notice when an assignment or your NOTEBOOK is due. **Half credit will be given to late work.** \* NOTE: *No work will be accepted from a **previous six-week grading period**.*

Be respectful to me, your classmates, and yourself always.

### GRADING:

Your grade will be based on the points you earn in this class. Points will be given for your Interactive Notebook, class participation, a positive attitude, attendance, written assignments, homework, quizzes, and tests. I will use a straight scale (90%-100% = A etc.) and I will round up at the semester. Remember to keep my policy for late work in mind.

\*There is no reason for anyone to receive less than a C in my class. However, if the criterion for a C is not met, I will be forced to assign a lower grade.

I am super excited for the upcoming semester and hope we can learn together.

-Ms. Taja

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\*I have read these expectations and understand what is expected of me/my child.

Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Best Parent Contact # \_\_\_\_\_