

Mr. Busby  
jbusby@lvusd.org

## Policies and Procedures

### I. CLASSROOM PHILOSOPHY

#### "Success"

Probably inaccurately attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson

*To laugh often and much;  
To win the respect of intelligent people  
and the affection of children;  
To earn the appreciation of honest critics  
and endure the betrayal of false friends;  
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;  
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child,  
a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;  
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.  
This is to have succeeded.*

Social Science is an integral part of your education in high school. You will all have the opportunity to become full fledged citizens, to vote, to participate in our democracy. This course will help to prepare you for that responsibility and privilege. Additionally, you will learn to think, not memorize, considering some of the great questions of all time. You will learn to communicate, both orally and in writing. The most brilliant mind is useless unless that brilliance can be communicated to others. Finally, you should know this...**I LOVE Social Science!!** I have a passion for the subject and I find it fascinating. I hope that you will learn to share my love for history and government. Regardless of whether you share my passion, understand it is your learning I care about, not your grade! Although I will do my utmost to make your grade fair and reflective of your accomplishment, I don't have a passion for GPA's. But the student who wishes to learn about history...that student I will bend over backward to help achieve that noble goal.

### II. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

- A. Your grade is determined by a point system. Each assignment or test is worth a certain number of points and your grade is based on the number of points you earn. 90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% D, less than 60% is a failing grade.
- B. The one exception to section A is in class essays. On in class essays, if you don't initially pass the essay, you will have the opportunity to rewrite that essay. Students will be allowed to rewrite essays to earn a passing grade. Rewrites will be allowed only during support time.
- C. Always turn in assigned work when it is due. Late work is worth half credit and you have ONE class day to turn it in. It must be turned in at the beginning of the next class. This is true of all assignments. If you are absent the day a major assignment is due, please arrange to turn it in early, email it to me, or for someone else to bring it to class. You are responsible for obtaining any assignments given during an absence.
- D. Copied work will result in a zero for all parties involved and school/district policy will be followed. Working with fellow students is encouraged and can be quite valuable. However, make sure that all work is composed in your own words! Assignments that are identical in all ways will be considered plagiarized work.
- E. Extra Credit is just that. EXTRA! It will **not** save you from a semester of neglect. A limited amount of extra credit will be available towards the end of the semester but it will amount to no more than 2% of the final grade.

- F. All assignments should be easily legible! If your handwriting is reminiscent of chicken scratch, type your papers!! All homework assignments should be answered completely. That means you should restate the question and use complete sentences. Answers that don't follow this format will be considered incomplete.
- G. Also, on occasion there may be times when I chose to show an "R" rated film that correlates to the California Content Standard I am teaching. Example movies I may show are *Glory*, *Spotlight*, *Black Hawk Down*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Thirteen Days*, *The Big Short*, *Letters Home from Vietnam*, and *Bowling for Columbine*. Below you will find a line referring to watching "R" rated films. If you do not want your child to watch an "R" rated film write the word NO. If you will allow your child to watch an "R" rated film, write the word YES. Any student not watching the movie will be given an alternate assignment.

### III. ATTENDENCE AND TARDY POLICY

- A. Tardies will be recorded and referrals issued according to LVUSD attendance policy. You will receive a tardy if you have to leave class to get supplies, books, etc. You will be considered tardy if you are not in your seat or heading to it when the bell rings.
- B. After an excused absence, one day is given for each day absent to make up work for full credit. This pertains only to one-day assignments and tests. Tests will not be made up during class time. If absent on the day of the test, the test must be made up within one week in order to receive full credit. Make-up tests will be given after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A maximum of half credit will be given for tests not made up during the designated period.

### IV. DISCIPLINE

- A. A school classroom is not your personal playpen. I will give you the freedom to bring food and drink into the class as long as you do not abuse that freedom. Before you leave class, I expect you to clean up any and all trash you bring into class and to return your desk to where you found it. If the classroom is left a mess, consequences will be applied.
- B. It is expected that you will respect all members of the class at all times. Personal attacks, no matter how intentioned, will not be tolerated.
- C. You are expected to pay attention in class. Sleeping, listening to music, talking to friends, and scrolling on your device are all inappropriate. The vast majority of what you need to know will be discussed in class. Actions that distract the rest of the class will not be tolerated and sympathy will not be distributed to those who do not respect the course.

### V. HOW DO I STUDY FOR THIS COURSE?

I know that many of you are concerned about what grade you will receive in this course. How do you attain a good grade? By learning social science and the skills associated with it. So how do you learn social science? First of all, always do the assigned reading **before** we go over it in class. Reading is not assigned for my amusement, but to assist your learning process. As you are reading...ask yourself if you really understand the material. Write down questions as they occur to you and bring them to class. If your questions are not answered in class, ask me!!! Participation is of vital importance. Challenge the material, offer your own opinions, think!!! There is no such thing as a stupid question.

Once we have covered material in class, go home and do the homework associated with that subject matter to ensure that you understand it. If you still have questions, that's OK! Utilize support period and take advantage of the opportunity to get help. If you follow this process, I believe you will find that studying for tests will become a more simple matter, and you will succeed in this class.

I'm looking forward to a great semester and to learning together!!

## **Policies and Procedures Sign-off sheet**

I have read and understand all of the policies and procedures explained above.

Please print student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“R” Rated Films – YES or NO: \_\_\_\_\_