


# GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS

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Class web site: [historyhaus.weebly.com](http://historyhaus.weebly.com)

## TOP SIX THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CLASS

- Both semesters of this class are required for graduation.** It is crucial that you make this class a priority & see me if you need help.
- Students in this class will use iPads to do most tasks in the class.** Each student will be assigned a specific iPad that he or she will use in class all year. This **does not** mean students are allowed to check or use cellphones (or listen to earbuds or headphones) for non-educational or personal uses during class time. 
- The class web site ([historyhaus.weebly.com](http://historyhaus.weebly.com)) contains many resources that students will use to complete assignments and projects, and to study for tests - students should check the web site if they are absent or are uncertain about what is due soon.** Lesson materials and resources are posted as PDF documents, so that students can open them on any device. At times, video lessons on YouTube *may* be linked from the web site.
- I use a grading and learning management system called *JupiterEd* to report up-to-date, real-time details about performance scores and assignments. As for *Synergy*, I post overall letter grade updates at progress report periods.** So, if you want to be updated about specific assignments and tests, I am sending home a sheet with temporary passwords for parents to create an account. It is a simple process. One of the things I really like about JupiterEd is that, as a parent or student, you can set it up to notify you (via email or text - your choice) under conditions that you specify (you can receive a weekly report, or just receive updates when a grade falls below a certain level, etc.) In addition, I like that parents can select either English or Spanish as their preferred language for receiving messages. It has been my experience that both of these features improve teacher-to-parent communication. In addition, JupiterEd is a rich LMS (learning management system) that allows students to submit assignments for online grading and enables them to take unit quizzes on the iPads.
- This is a standards-based class that uses a grading model that has been designed to fit closely with the policies of other departments at Tualatin High School.** This means a few important things.

First, the academic grade is based on student performances that have been assessed using a feedback rubric (scoring guide).

4	Exceeds	Advanced understanding/application of the standard
3	Meets	Solid understanding/application of the standard
2	Nearly meets	Gaps in understanding/application of the standard
1	Beginning	Shows minimal understanding/application of the standard
NA	Not attempted	No attempt to meet the standard was made

Second, instead of organizing the grade book by assignments, tests, projects, and so on, it is organized by the Oregon Social Studies content standards and by Common Core reading and writing standards (the specific standards are listed on the back). The standards-based grade book looks something like this in JupiterGrades (just an approximate Semester 1 example; not all of these standards may actually end up in Semester 1):

**Standards**

These are not assignments, but standards assessed

Notice there are no due dates for the semester standards

Assignments

These are classwork and homework assignments, indicated by due date

Standards	Assignment	Score	Comment	Impact on grade
	UNIT 1 TEST: Citizenship Test	3 / 4 B	Performance on SS.HS.27 MEETS the	+2.5%
	READING: Cite textual evidence to support interpretation	4 / 4 A	Performance on CCSS.RH.1 EXCEEDS	+7.5%
	UNIT 2 TEST: Bill of Rights and Role of the Judiciary	NA / 4 F	NOT ATTEMPTED: Schedule makeup	-12.5%
	PERSONAL MANAGEMENT: Complete assignments and participate	2 / 4 C	Multiple assignments not completed	-2.5%
	ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY: Organizes arguments logically	3 / 4 B	Performance on CCSS.WHST.1 MEETS	+2.5%
	CURRENT EVENTS ANALYSIS: Explain the role of government	3 / 4 B	Performance on SS.HS.33 MEETS the	+2.5%
	9/14 Letter to Mr. Hausman	✓		
	9/14 Syllabus Signature & JupiterEd Form	✓-		
	9/16 Reading Baseline: "The Tragedy of the Commons"	NC		
	New Assignment			
	1st Semester Total	62.5% C 15 / 24		

**The current letter grade**

Check marks indicate the assignment was completed satisfactorily and on time. A check minus would mean an assignment was significantly late, but completed.

"NA" means the student never attempted the standards assessment, harming the grade significantly until it is made up

Students can retake reading assessments and revise writing assignments to attempt to raise their score

- The grading scale percentages are different than what you may be used to seeing.** To a grading program, a 3 out of 4 looks like 75%. If a student were to earn 3s for every score in Semester 1, they would meet every standard. But their score would be reported as 75% and a C if I used a traditional grading scale breakdown. However, by agreement with other standards-based teachers in Social Studies and Language Arts at TuHS, a student who earns all 3s in Social Studies should receive a B, and not a C. For this reason, I will use the altered grade scale seen to the right. *It is important to note that this grade scale is not actually easier than a traditional one.* It is simply adjusted to fit with the standards-based approach, in a way that is fair to students.

Grade	Minimum	%
A	83.0	%
B	70.0	%
C	50.0	%
D	40.0	%
F	0.0	%