

GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS

Mr. Hausman ♦ 2016-17 ♦ Room 213 ♦ (503) 431-5583 ♦ chausman@tsd.k12.or.us
 Class web site: 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.
- You will use iPads to do many tasks in the class.** You will be assigned a specific iPad to use in class all year. This **does not** mean you 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) contains resources you 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.** If you are without Internet access at home, even if for a short time, please let me know, so we can make other arrangements to get you what you need to succeed.
- I use a grading and learning management system called JupiterEd to report 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 is built upon 4-3-2-1 scoring.** 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).* Performance (reading & writing assessments, projects, tests) make up 85% of the grade, while Process (assignments and participation) make up 15%. Different standards have different rubrics, but they are similar to this one:

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 JupiterEd (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 (4-3-2-1)

Notice there are no due dates for the semester standards

Assignment	Score	Comment	Impact on grade
READING: Cite evidence to support analysis of a text	3 / 4 B		+3.5%
TEST: Understand functions and process of U.S. government	4 / 4 A		+10.6%
WRITTEN: Understand functions & process of US government	3 / 4 B		+3.5%
ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING: Organizes arguments logically	NA / 4 F		-17.7%
9/12 Letter to the Teacher	2 / 2 A		+1.3%
9/12 Syllabus Signature & JupiterEd Form	2 / 2 A		+1.3%
9/14 Baseline Reading Sample (Newsela)	1 / 2 C		

New Assignment			
1st Semester Total	65.6%	C	
Performance	62.5%	C	10 / 16 85.0% of grade
Process	83.3%	A	5 / 6 15.0% of grade

Assignments
These are classwork and homework assignments, indicated by due date

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

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

Assignments and participation are marked 2 (complete & on time), 1 (incomplete, or complete but late) or NA.

- The grading scale percentages are different than what you may be used to seeing.** To a grading program, a 3 out of 4 is, of course, 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	%