

**Government/Economics  
Santa Teresa High School**

**Instructor:** Mr. Chang

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**Room:** 201

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**Website(s):**

<http://changtheworldtoday.weebly.com/>

<http://sths.schoolloop.com/changtheworld>

**Office Hours:**

Mondays – Periods 6 & 7, 12:15PM – 1:40PM

“S” Days (Tuesdays & Thursdays) – Period 7, 1:15PM – 2:50PM

“T” Days (Wednesdays & Fridays) – Period 6, 12:55PM – 2:30PM

**Course Description**

Welcome to Mr. Chang’s Government/Economics class. During the first semester, the focus will be on American government and developing civic literacy. Many students will leave Santa Teresa as a legal adult. It is necessary for them to understand how our government and society function. Democracy is the cornerstone of American society. Whether democracy in this country, or even this world, will survive depends on the actions of the present and future generations. It is a right, not a privilege. If democracy is to survive, it must be maintained through civic participation and awareness. The second semester will focus on economics. Students will develop a thorough understanding of fundamental economic concepts as well as personal financial concepts to assist students in the post-secondary education world. The overarching purpose of these two courses is to help students develop an understanding of the workings of our society, equipping them with the necessary knowledge to thrive in our society and be socially responsible and aware individuals.

**Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of the course is to prepare the student to:

1. Successfully complete high school graduation requirements in the state of California
2. First Semester: Achieve civic literacy and become socially responsible and aware individuals
3. Second Semester: Develop knowledge in economics and personal finance to thrive in our society
4. Further develop the critical/analytical skills required for academic success at the college or university level and life

"All it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing."

– Edmund Burke

“The secret of freedom lies in educating people,  
whereas the secret of tyranny is in keeping them ignorant.”

- Maximilien Robespierre

## I. Important Course Information

- 1) **Maintain notebooks.** This class will use an interactive notebook system, which will require a notebook of at least 100 pages, preferably a composition notebook. The notebook will serve as a student's portfolio containing class work throughout the semester. Further directions and grading rubrics will follow.
- 2) **Classroom readiness.** Students are expected to come to class every day prepared, which includes bringing suggested class materials (*\*see Suggested Materials for Success*) to class, being seated in your assigned seat, and working on the Do Now activity by the time the bell rings. No backpacks should be on the desk during class. Only one copy of handouts and any other materials will be provided. It is the student's responsibility to keep all work. Another copy can be received at the cost of a 10% deduction. Another copy can also be retrieved through the instructor's website at no deduction cost.
- 3) **Participation and behavior expectations.** Participation is worth 8% of the overall grade. Discussion is central to the course and highly recommended, especially if a student wants to partake in their own education. Students be respectful to others and pay attention when one has the floor. They should not be talking over one and another. (*\*See Classroom Rules & Expectations*) Students should raise their hands and await their turn to speak and/or participate. Students should understand that others may not agree with them and must keep an open mind for discussion and dialogue.
- 4) **Make-up work and/or late assignments.** It is the student's responsibility, NOT the instructor's to ensure students have all work completed when a student is tardy or absent. Make-up work will only be accepted if excused through the attendance office and they will have the same number of days missed to complete their work without any deductions. Late work will result in a 10% deduction in the overall grade EACH SCHOOL DAY and not when the student has the instructor's class. There is a maximum deduction of 50%. Unexcused late work will not be accepted after a two-week time period has elapsed. Missing assignments will result in a 0 in the gradebook until work is submitted. Students should make arrangements with the instructor to schedule a time to make up any missed quizzes and tests.
- 5) **Restroom.** Personal needs should be taken care of prior to entering class. Bathrooms are not allowed the first/last 10 minutes of class and the first 15 minutes after Break on "S" and "T" Days. It is understandable that if you have to go, you have to go. The bathroom pass is ONLY used to attend to bathroom-related needs. If bathroom privileges are abused, students will need to surrender cellphones, which will be held by the instructor until the end of the class. If continually abused, surrendered cellphones will instead be held until the end of the school day. In cases of health issues, parents and/or guardians should communicate with instructor prior.
- 6) **Intervention.** Students who receive a C- (70%) or lower on any test or a quiz (except pop quizzes, Plicker quizzes, and the final) may re-take it within two weeks after students receive their results. Students can make arrangements with the instructor to schedule a time to retake any missed quiz and test. It is the student's responsibility to make such arrangements.
- 7) **Extra credit.** Extra credit opportunities will be offered throughout the semester, or not at all. Extra credit is not a right, but a privilege at the instructor's discretion based on class and/or individual behavior.

- 8) **Content warning.** Occasionally, materials such as photos, movies (possibly R-rated), and documentaries that are educationally relevant to the course and classroom discussions will be used. The content of the material may be graphic and/or offensive (especially satirical material) in nature such as violence, profanity, dead bodies, and nudity (i.e. political satire towards certain groups of people). Appropriate behavior by the students is required. Lesson debriefs are attached to ensure students understand the purpose of the material. Parents/Guardians concerned about the material used are welcomed to preview the material beforehand.

## II. Suggested Materials for Success in This Class:

1. A (composition) notebook numbering at least 100 pages in length. (*Bring to class every day*)
2. Textbook (*Generally not required every day. Instructor will remind students ahead of time if they are required to bring it to class.*)
3. Blue/black ink pen(s), #2 pencils, and/or mechanical lead pencils (all assignments must be completed in blue/black ink or a pencil. No other color is accepted. Typed assignments are acceptable.)
4. Highlighters of any color
5. Plickers placard (given by instructor, keep in notebook to avoid losing)

## III. Classroom Rules & Expectations:

1. Students are expected to follow all district and school rules and policies at all times including but not limited to, use of electronic devices and dress code
2. Students should demonstrate **RESPECT** for others, the classroom, the campus, and themselves at all times. One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself. We are a community. We are a family.
3. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will **NOT** be taken lightly. Student will receive an automatic 0 for the assignment. Student will be notified that parental and office contact will be made.
4. No cellphones or any other electronics in class unless specified by the instructor or with permission. An initial warning will be given. Another infraction will result in the device being confiscated until the end of class. Repeated infractions will result in device being sent to the office.
5. Drinks and snacks are allowed during class as long as students respect the classroom environment and do not distract instruction time. Energy drinks are not allowed. The instructor reserves the right to take away such privileges from the ENTIRE class. If class privilege is taken away, water would be the only drink allowed in the classroom until the end of the semester. Gum chewing is allowed as well. If environment is not respected, then privilege will be taken away from the class for the remainder of the year.
6. Consequences for not following classroom & campus-wide rules and expectations:
  - 1) Verbal warning, and possible parental contact
  - 2) Student & teacher conference, and parent contact can be made
  - 3) Parent & teacher conference, and office will be notified ahead of time
  - 4) Referral to the Discipline Office

#### IV. Grades & Policy

1. Grades are not “given” by the instructor. Students **earn** the highest grade possible by giving genuine effort and providing evidence of their knowledge through completion of assignments and participation. There is no such thing as a free lunch.
2. At the end of the semester, grades at the borderline may be rounded up at the instructor’s discretion based on behavior and participation.

#### Grading Scale

A+ = 100 – 98%	B+ = 89 – 88%	C+ = 79 – 78%	D+ = 69 – 68%
A = 97 – 93%	B = 87 – 83%	C = 77 – 73%	D = 67 – 63%
A- = 92 – 90%	B- = 82 – 80%	C- = 72 – 70%	D- = 62 – 60%
			F = Below 60%

#### Grade Distribution

Final: 10%
Exams: 15%
Quizzes: 10%
Project/Essays: 20%
Homework: 15%
Notebook: 22%
<u>Participation/Behavior: 8%</u>
100%

**Class Contract/Agreement**

Students will review this syllabus and ask any questions on anything that is unclear. Once the syllabus is explained, students need to print and sign their names (twice). Students must also give the syllabus to their parent/guardian for review.

Parents, please fill out contact information completely and sign (twice) showing your understanding. Please do not detach, this will be done in class. Only the portion below the dotted line will be detached in class. Students are to keep their syllabus where they can check if they have any questions or for review.

Thank you. Let's have a great school year and Chang the world!  
Mr. Chang

\_\_\_\_\_ *Print Student's Name*                      *Period*                      *Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Print Parent/Guardian's Name*                      *Date*                      *Parent Signature*

-----*(To be detached in class)*-----

\_\_\_\_\_ *Print Student's Name*                      *Period*                      *Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Print Parent/Guardian's Name*                      *Date*                      *Parent Signature*

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information:**

*Please circle your preferred method of contact*

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Appropriate Time/Day to Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in signing up for the Remind app to make sure you are informed?

Yes or No

Sign up with cellphone or email? Cellphone or Email