1415 AP United States Government and Politics

*Course Syllabus*

*Rockcastle County High School*

# James Herbie Brock

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**Course Description: Overview of**

Above all, AP World History is an opportunity. It is an opportunity for students to earn college credit (upon passing the AP Test given at the end of the year). It is an opportunity for students that enjoy an in-depth study of American government to gain a better understanding of the content. And, it is an opportunity to work alongside like-minded students to explore exciting materials.

**About Advanced Placement Courses**The primary purpose of this course will be to prepare you to take the AP exam administered by the College Board on May 14th, 2014. Students are required to take the exam, and are graded on a scale of 1 - 5, with 5 being the highest score. Students who earn a 3 or better will be entitled to college credit, advanced placement in college, or both, depending on the individual policies of the university. It should be understood at the outset that the class reflects a college-level curriculum and as a result is significantly more challenging than regular courses in American Government and will require outside preparation and independent learning.

**College Readiness Standards**

Infer the main idea or purpose of more challenging passages or their paragraphs, summarize events and ideas in virtually any passage, understand the overall approach taken by an author or narrator (e.g., point of view, kinds of evidence used) in virtually any passage. order sequences of events in complex passages, understand the subtleties in relationships between people, ideas, and so on in virtually any passage, understand implied, subtle, or complex cause-effect relationships in virtually any passage.

**Resource Materials:**

* Classroom notebook (a two-inch or larger three-ring binder)
* Lined paper
* Two writing utensils (Pens or mechanical pencils are preferred)
* Two highlighters
* Two dry-erase markers
* 100 3x5 Index cards
* Text (provided)

**Performance Standards and Expectations**

The class will be modeled after college courses and should serve as a suitable alternative to said courses. With that, the course-load will be rigorous and challenging. Students are expected to exemplify responsibility and maturity in preparedness and participation during the course.

Refer to the RCHS Handbook for specific school expectations and behavior policies. All RCHS Handbook policies are strictly followed in AP World History. Below are specific additions to the Handbook policies that pertain to APWH particularly.

**Grading Policy**

The grading policy for the course is formatted to reflect a college-level government class and, due to that, students and parents must consider that grading is very different than regular classes at the high school level. The grading policy is listed below and will not be altered during the year.

* 6 Unit Exams (5% of overall grade each) (30% of overall grade)
* 2 Midterm essays due on October 15th, 2014 and March 13th, 2015 (10% of overall grade each) (20% of overall grade)
* Semester Exam (10% of overall grade)
* Mock AP Exam (10% of overall grade)
* Free Response Questions (10% of overall grade)
* Homework (10% of overall grade)

**Homework Policy**

Students will be given 15 homework points at the beginning of the year. A missed homework assignment will result in the loss of one point. If a student has over 10 homework points at the end of the year, those additional points will be added as bonus points to their final overall grade.

**Make Up Work Policy**

RCHS Handbook policies apply.

**Plagiarism Policy**

RCHS Handbook policies apply. Academic honesty is of utmost importance in this class and violators will be punished to the full extent of current policies. This includes copying homework, other assignments and cheating on tests.

**Class Policy FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

Q – What supplies do I need for this class?

A – Each day you will be responsible to have your textbook, lined paper, in a three-ring binder with a writing utensil and highlighter. Pens or mechanical pencils are strongly encouraged.

Q – Are additional resources required for the class?

A – No. All other materials will be provided. However, some students prefer to order study guides and booklets to help them with the class.

Q – What if I am late to class?

A – The tardy will be listed via Infinite Campus. Discipline will be given as per the RCHS Student Handbook. (4 tardies = detention and so on) If your tardy is excused by a faculty member, a note must be presented to Mr. Brock on the day of the tardy.

Q – What is Mr. Brock’s makeup work policy?

A – The policy is per the RCHS Student Handbook. Students who miss class will be given three school days after to make up the work outside of class. Additional consecutive days missed will add one extra day for makeup per day missed. For example, if a student misses two days, makeup work will be due five school days from the last missed day. All makeup work must be completed outside of class. Specifically, tests must be made up before or after school.

Q – What is Mr. Brock’s late work policy?

A – If a student fails to turn in an assignment at the time it is due, they may turn it in on the next school day for ¾ original credit. Work is considered late if it is turned in during the time it is being collected. All makeup work must be completed outside of class. Specifically, tests must be made up before or after school.

Q – What is Mr. Brock’s re-testing policy?

A – Tests may be retaken once for each unit. In order to qualify students must have

1. Completed all assignments for the unit before taking the original test.
2. Completed test corrections for the original test and turn them in before the retake.
3. Schedule a time after or before school to retake the test.
4. Requested the retake before five school days after the original graded test was returned.

AP US Government Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am very excited to have your student enrolled in AP US Government during the 2013-2014 school year. I will do everything possible to assist your student in understanding and applying the knowledge available in this course; however, I do require that your child be responsible, prepared, and complete assignments on time. I will be available for meetings, phone calls, or emails to discuss your child’s progress in this course during my planning period, before, or after school. If you have any concerns or just want to know how your student is performing do not hesitate to contact me.

This is a course which does require the students to work with maps, reading assignments, current events, writing assignments, and problem solving skills. We will be working on research and writing skills while learning the content of the class. Please carefully read the syllabus attached to this letter that outlines the policies and procedures of this course. Once you and your student have read and understand the syllabus, please sign below and return this letter to me. I will keep it with your student’s academic progress record.

Herbie Brock

The Big Deals

Below is a list of the most important items I wish for parents to remember throughout the year.   
**\*Please initial each item to confirm your understanding of each.**

1. Parent Initial \_\_\_ Student Initial \_\_\_   
   Students are encouraged to keep an open mind and required to exercise tolerance and understanding for all peoples during class time.
2. Parent Initial \_\_\_ Student Initial \_\_\_   
    Any assignment not turned in on time will be allowed to be turned in late for ¾ credit on the following school day. Late work will not be accepted any time after it is two days past-due.
3. Parent Initial \_\_\_ Student Initial \_\_\_   
   Any assignment (including tests) that is missed due to student absence may be made up for full credit, but must be completed outside of class. An appointment must be made with the teacher within three school days of the student returning to school.
4. Parent Initial \_\_\_ Student Initial \_\_\_   
   Emails will be sent to parents no later than three days before any unit test or essay due date.
5. Parent Initial \_\_\_ Student Initial \_\_\_   
   All graded unit tests will be sent home by students for parent signatures. This is required for all graded unit tests.
6. Parent Initial \_\_\_ Student Initial \_\_\_   
   Students are not permitted to have cell phones or any personal electronics on school grounds. Failure to comply will result in confiscation of device and assignment to PASS. This policy is strictly enforced.
7. Parent Initial \_\_\_ Student Initial \_\_\_   
   All policies from the RCHS Student Handbook are followed in class at all times. Any violations will be handled according to the handbook with no exceptions.

I have read and understand the attached syllabus.

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Parent/guardian signature Date

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Student (print) Student (sign)

Please list the contact information you would like for me to use to communicate with you about your student.

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Phone Number E-mail Address