

February 2, 2023

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To: All Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Due to a scheduling conflict with another teaching job, I will be unable to attend College Park's Open House night on Wednesday, February 15. I apologize in advance for missing this important event. In lieu of the usual presentation that I give on that night I thought I would just give you the highlights of what we will be working on in the course, and provide you with contact information if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

I've always considered this class a "bridge" from high school to college. What this means in real terms is that we will spend most class days discussing and debating the various concepts and themes we are examining, but most of their grade will be based on individual work they do at home. This means there is *always* "homework" to do. As in college, how and when they complete this work will be up to them. I will be there if they have questions, but I will not be following them around asking them how they are doing. They will need to tell me (and you) if they need assistance with any of their research projects.

We will be primarily focusing on critical thinking and writing in this class. Research paper writing will be an important skill to master for college, so the bulk of their grade in the class will be focused on building up what they have worked on to this point. The research projects themselves are posted on my website and I encourage you to read along and engage them in conversations surrounding the topics. The varied viewpoints they get from discussing these topics will expand their knowledge of the subject and improve their writing.

They will also have classwork to turn in, a final exam toward the end of May, and will earn points for watching several documentary videos that I will be showing them this semester (a list of the videos can be reviewed on my website). I will be giving letter grades only at the 10 week and 20 week report cards. A copy of my syllabus can be found on my website if you should have any questions about how they will be assessed.

The most important dates for you to keep in mind will be the following:

Friday, March 17, 2023: End of third quarter – Research Project One due (all classes)

Friday, May 19, 2023: Research Project Two (all classes)

Friday, May 19, 2023: Final Research Project (all classes)

I will be giving final exams on Wednesday May 17th and Thursday May 18th. This will be the end of the second semester. I look forward to answering any questions you have or just talking politics! Please visit my website at your earliest convenience. Everything your son/daughter will need for the semester can be found there:

www.kropfpolisci.com

Thanks for your time, and again, I'm very sorry I could not meet you in person on the 15th.

Best Regards,
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