

# Welcome to Vista Online Class

## Mr. Reed

Welcome to the Vista Online Class and your experience with Online Learning. I am excited to get started with you and hope that you will enjoy your Online experience. You will find that the online course will allow for more flexibility in your daily high school schedule. This course can be very rewarding and challenging at the same time. Please be aware of your student responsibilities by reading the course syllabus on my teacher website.



## Welcome to Online Class

Mr. Reed

- In this course, your curriculum will be accessed through APEX Learning, this is Vista's online curriculum provider.
- You will report to class *when assigned (usually 1 to 3 times a week) by your instructor*. You will also have access to the curriculum online at home to work anytime you would like.
- The computer lab is open everyday for your use.
- You must keep pace with the course and turn in assignments on time.
- You will be able to access APEX here: [www.apexvs.com](http://www.apexvs.com)



# How APEX Works



- APEX is basically your textbook online. Each unit has a series of sub-units that you will be quizzed on. *These are worth 10 pts each. Be aware that these quizzes add up, and you need to prepare yourself for them.* (This is a formative assessment). This may be taken at school or home.
- *Each unit has assignments that you must completed for that unit.* They are highlighted by a red square in the unit guide when you log on. You will only see the portion of the unit you are working on until you finish that sub-unit, and then you will see the next one. Pay attention to the Unit guide that the instructor has provided you with.
- *At the end of each unit, there is a Unit Test (Summative Assessment).* This must be taken in the Lab (G208) at school and can not be done at home.
- *The best way for students to keep track of their progress is to open up Appendix A* (Student Resources) in Apex and access the Student Checklist (Syllabus). This will show you everything you need to do for each unit. Graded activities are highlighted in blue and identify the points available and scored once completed.
- You will be given extra points at the end of the course for completion of *unit study sheets* (10 points for each unit). These study guides must be signed off by the instructor prior to taking the unit test. These are not graded through the Apex program, but are a valuable learning tool and guide to the unit information.
- Remember, units must be completed on time. Due dates will be set and must be meet to remain in good standing and maintain your grade.

# Testing

- *Each unit has a series of 10 point quizzes* that must be completed. As an example, Unit 1 (Government) has the following quizzes: 1.1.6, 1.2.5, 1.3.5....they are at the end of each sub-unit.
- *Each unit has a CST (multiple choice test) and a TST (written short essay).*
- *The CST must be taken in the lab (G208).* The TST is to be taken at home and turned in on the testing day.
- *Each Unit has a Diagnostic Pre-Test* that should be taken prior to the test. This is a good indicator of how well you may do and will tell you what to go over more in-depth if needed.



# Late Work Policy

- Students must report for their testing date. Students are granted a 1 week grace period to turn in assignments. (Best to turn in on testing date). After 1 week, all late work can be turned in for a max of 50 percent.
- Late TST's will be graded at a max of 75 percent. Again, any TST turned in after the one week grace period will be considered late.
- Pay attention to due dates.

# Discussion Board

- Each week there will be a class discussion. Students can access the discussion board at <http://vistaonline.collaborizeclassroom.com>.
- You will log on and post on the discussion topic. You will then respond to two of your classmates. This must be done within the posted time period. Each discussion will have a time that the discussion will close, so pay close attention to this.
- When you sign up for the discussion board, please identify yourself by using your first initial and last name. Example: ReedGov or SteveSmithEcon. Do not use a name that you can not be identified by.
- Each discussion post and response is worth 20 points.
- You will be asked to turn-in a 1 page summary on the discussion topic. This must be typed, 12 font, double-spaced, and in essay form. This essay is worth 20 points. Your participation in the class discussion is worth 10 points.



# Other Activities

- You will be assigned other outside activities during this course.
- Course activities may include:
  - Collaborative Activities
  - Position Papers/ Outside Readings
  - Presentations: PowerPoint/ Prezi
  - Wiki or Blog Participation
  - Video Review
- Please be aware that all activities will be identified in the Unit plan and due dates and point values will be assigned accordingly by the instructor.



# Vista del Lago High School- Blended Class

## Tips for Success



- The Apex Learning Sign-in page is located at <http://www.apexvs.com>.
- Take the orientation and print out the student guide if needed.
- Open Appendix A (Student Resources) - this will give you access to the course syllabus. The syllabus has the unit outline and will identify what is scored and what is not.
- Print up your work and turn in your packet on the due dates.
- Study for your quizzes and tests....you cannot just wing it and expect to get a good grade. These are not easy.
- Prepare for the tests by doing the study guide, definitions, and other additional material. These may not be graded, but they are valuable to your success.
- Make time in your day for your class (beyond your normal 1 period) ....time management is important. The course syllabus outlines the amount of time each assignment should take. Pay attention to this and plan ahead.
- Form a study group to get ready for the test. Discuss important topics and concepts with your classmates.
- See your instructor when you need extra help or clarification on a topic.
- Remember the Computer Lab is open everyday and your instructor is available during this time.