

8th Grade American Government 2021-2022 COURSE SYLLABUS

Ms. Drye

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Discussion Decorum

Throughout this course, we will be discussing and viewing some very controversial issues. It is expected that students respectfully agree and disagree with one another. I will not tolerate any personal attacks or rude comments between any students. Any breach of this decorum will result in loss of credit for the assignment that day and potentially administrative action.



Course Description

We are in for an exciting year learning about the foundation and evolution of American Government! The content focus will be viewed through civic and economic lenses. Citizenship and civic engagement will be taught through inquiry. Eighth grade students will make connections between historical and current/contemporary issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. Government will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments.

Text: We the People The Citizen and the Constitution Level 2.

Replacement cost \$25.00

Units of Study

• Quarter 1:



Foundations of Government
Beginnings of American
Government

• Quarter 2:

- The Constitution
- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch

• Quarter 3:

- Civil Liberties
- Citizenship and Civil Rights
- State and Local Government

• Quarter 4:

- Government and the Economy
- Genocides and Current Events

Supplies

An important part of middle school is developing effective organizational strategies and habits. The following tools are recommended to help keep you organized:

- 1 (one) three-ring binder with 4 (four) dividers
(binder stays in in classroom)
- Pens or Pencils
- Folder to take home



Cell Phones and Technology

During class, cell phones or other personal devices (devices) must be silent and in the student's backpack. Cell phones & devices may not be used in class without teacher permission. First occurrence: warning. Second occurrence: device will be placed in the cell phone/technology area on the teacher's desk and can be picked up at the end of the school day. Third occurrence: device will be turned into the 4A or front office and must be picked up by a parent/guardian.



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. -Nelson Mandela

Semester Grading

Per North Pointe policy, semester grades will be weighted as follows:

Semester 1: First quarter 40%, Second quarter 40%, Semester 1 Final Exam - 20%

Semester 2: Third quarter - 40%, Fourth quarter - 40%, Semester 2 Final Exam - 20%

Late Work

Assignments are due in class, when called for, and must be complete and legible. This means that even if you turn in your assignment 5 minutes after I have collected the class work, yours is considered late. This also means that if your work is incomplete or not readable, it will not be accepted. Late assignments are reduced 10% per day. If a week passes, the assignment will not be accepted and will be graded as a O.

Parent Communication

Parents may contact me using the contact information listed at the top of this syllabus. Email is the best mode of contact. If students are having behavior problems or academic issues, I will contact parents to inform them of the problem and enlist their aid in solving it. If the issue remains unsolved, administration will take over to resolve it.

Grading

Each student will receive a letter grade upon completion of this course. All points, regardless of category (i.e.: exams, classwork, participation), will be weighted equally to the calculation of the course grade with the only exception of the Semester Final Exam worth 20% of the total grade. Students and parents can access course grades using the Online Academic Resource via the Student Grades link:

The North Pointe Prep handbook sets our grading scale as follows:

College Prep	Honors Class
A= 90% <	A = 90%<
B= 89-80%	B = 89-80%
C= 79-70%	C = 79-68%
D= 69-60%	D = 67-59%
F= 59% >	F = 58%>

North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions for currently enrolled students.

Class Expectations



BE PREPARED

- Be on time
- Use your time wisely
- Participate in class discussions and activities



BE RESPECTFUL

- Respect yourself and others
- Maintain an environment for earning
- Take responsibility
- Keep a positive attitude



DO YOUR BEST

- Be responsible for your learning; work hard and do your best.
- Keep an open mind
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.



Government Syllabus Signature Form

Please carefully review my syllabus and fill out the form below. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you or your student might have. You may also write your questions in the space provided below.

Please note that this is a social studies course. As such, there may be instances when the topics that are studied may contain mature and possibly controversial subject matter. Please understand that any mature material will be handled in an adult, respectful fashion.

Parents and Student: signing below serves as acknowledgement of my syllabus, as well as the works that are to be studied in this course.

I have read and understand the information provided in the syllabus.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Phone number: _____



Comments, Questions, Concerns