

8th Grade American Government

Hello 8th Grade

2020-2021 COURSE SYLLABUS



Mrs. Drye

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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. United States History will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments.



Supplies

The following tools are recommended to help keep you organized:

- ❖ One three-ring binder with 6 (six) dividers. This will be left in the classroom.
- ❖ One pack of lined 3x5 index cards
- ❖ Pens or Pencils
- ❖ Folder to take home
- ❖ Notebook

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.



"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 Grade: - First quarter - 40% -- Second quarter - 40% -- Semester 1 Final Exam - 20%
 Semester 2 Grade: - 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 D.

Tutoring

A student currently below a 60%, will sign an Individualized Academic Plan. This plan is designed for students to commit to specific, problem-solving strategies to improve their grade to at least a C. Failure to report to or refusal to effectively participate in tutoring will be considered insubordination and subject to administrative action. Tutoring is offered from 2:35pm-3:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays.

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 on www.northpointeprep.com.

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% >

Class Expectations



BE PREPARED

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



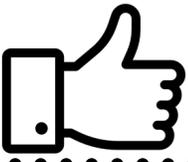
BE RESPECTFUL

- ❖ Respect yourself and others
- ❖ Maintain an environment for learning
- ❖ 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.



Cell Phones and Technology

Cell phones and other forms of technology may not be used unless permission is given by the teacher. During class, cell phones or other personal devices are to be away in the student's backpacks. If they are in view or in use without prior permission a warning will be given for the first occurrence. In the event of a second occurrence, the device will be placed in the cell phone and technology area on the teacher's desk and can be picked up at the end of the school day. In the event of a third occurrence, the device will be turned into the 4A or front office and must be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Absent and Make-up Policy

You are allowed 2 days to get any missed assignment turned in for each excused absence. If you are absent for an assignment, quiz or test, you will be expected to turn in the assignment or take the test on your next day back if you knew of the assignment, quiz or test the day before you were absent. Refer to the NPP student handbook for absent work policy.

Distance Learning

While engaging in distance learning it is expected that students participate and act in accordance with the classroom expectations. Zoom instruction time will be used just as if we were face to face in class.

Units of Study

- ❖ Foundations of Government
- ❖ Beginnings of American Government
- ❖ The Constitution
- ❖ Government by the People
- ❖ Elections
- ❖ Executive Branch
- ❖ Legislative Branch
- ❖ Judicial Branch
- ❖ Civil Liberties
- ❖ Citizenship and Civil Rights
- ❖ State and Local Government
- ❖ Government and the Economy



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.