**AP Government and Politics Course Syllabus**

**MMHS 2018-19**

**Mr. McClure**

**Room H212**

**(951) 304-1890 ext. 6212**

**smcclure@murrieta.k12.ca.us**

**Course Study**

*The intent of this year long course is to increase understanding of the American political system, its· frameworks, traditions and values with the goal of having each student pass the AP exam. This course is concerned with the nature of the American political system, and its development over the past two centuries. We will examine in detail the principle processes and institutions through which the political system functions, as well as some of the public policies which these institutions establish and how they are implemented.*

**Course Goals**

Students successfully completing this course *will:*

* Know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics
* Understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures)
* Be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics

**Textbook**

Wilson, Dilulio, *American Government*

Lasser, *Perspectives on American Politics*

**Major Units of Study**

(Tentative Schedule; Subject to Change)

Fall Semester: Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy, Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government, Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Spring Semester: Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs Policy Processes, Unit 5: Political Participation

**Grading Scale**

90 – 100% A

80 – 89% B

70 – 79% C

60 – 69% D

0 – 59% F

**Current Events**

To fully understand and apply the material covered in class, you must keep up with current events. Reading anything having to do with the United States government or economy (foreign or domestic) will be helpful. Staying current will vastly improve your comprehension and mastery of the subject matter.

Suggested Sources: *The Los Angeles Times; The New York Times; Wall Street Journal; The Washington Post; The Press Enterprise;* ***national*** *television news; Meet The Press; This Week; Crossfire; Hardball; Hannity; The Daily Show (for satire); CNN.com; FoxNews.com; Drudgereport.com; RealClearPolitics.com; Politico.com*

**Attendance / Promptness**

Because each class begins with a warm-up activity, students are expected to be in their seats prior to the bell, and begin the warm-up immediately. In addition to the school’s policies regarding tardiness, students who are late, and do not have an excused note, will lose participation points for the semester.

**Make-up Work**

* There will be **no late work accepted** in this class. You have chosen to take a course that is challenging and expects more of you. Turning in work late does not demonstrate the commitment to excellence that is necessary to be successful in this class, so it will simply not be allowed.
* If you have an **excused** absence, you must submit make-up work within one day of your return from the absence to avoid the late penalty.
* Tests and quizzes may be made up only following an excused absence, and must be completed during a time designated by the teacher

**Bathroom Passes**

It is the policy of MMHS that passes are used for emergency bathroom use only. It is to the teacher’s discretion if/when a school pass will be issued to a student. Students need to learn how to prioritize their time outside of the classroom.

**Cell Phones & Electronic Devices**

There will be absolutely no cell phone usage in the classroom. All cell phones will be turned off and put away while in the classroom; cell phones will be confiscated if they are visible or are in use. If a parent needs to get in touch with a student, the parent can contact the office and a message can be delivered to the classroom. No CD players/I-Pods/electronic devices are permitted. If a student is listening to music or playing a game, the device will be confiscated. School rules display the following consequences for electronic devices: First offense—warning; Second offense—device is taken for the remainder of the day, the student may pick it up in his/her counselor’s office after school; Third offense - Saturday School, and the device will be given back to the parent; Fourth Offense- two day suspension, and the device will be given back to the parents at the end of the semester.

**Food & Drinks**

In compliance with MMHS’ Code of Conduct, food and drinks are not permitted in the classroom. Only bottled water that is capped will be permitted. Starbucks, sodas, and food will be properly disposed in the trashcan upon entry into the classroom.

**Citizenship**

The moment students walk into the classroom, the highest standards for good citizenship are expected of them. These standards can be summed up with one word: RESPECT. Students should exhibit respect for the teacher, their fellow classmates, the classroom, and most importantly themselves in all they do and say. While it entails a great deal, it primarily means you attempt to do the right thing at all times. This applies especially to **respecting the right of the teacher to do the best job possible teaching you and the right of other students to learn in the best possible environment.** Additionally, students must follow the specific rules/consequences and procedures as outlined.

**Academic Integrity and the AP Course:**

As an Advanced Placement student, you represent the benchmark for academic achievement and conduct. You are expected to act as such. Any student who plagiarizes, lies, cheats, or otherwise misuses the academic environment or other Advanced Placement students or their work will be expelled from the AP U.S. Government and Politics program. The grade will be converted to an “F” and their class credit converted to a “regular Government” credit. Moreover, anyone who observes this conduct and does not report it will be considered for the same.

**Cheating Defined: *Gaining or attempting to gain an unfair advantage on any assignment or test.***

**Disciplinary Actions**

In order for the teacher to do the best job possible teaching you, disciplinary procedures will be enforced. The consequences of inappropriate behavior include (but are not limited to): student/teacher conference, OCD (on campus detention), behavior essay, parent/teacher communication, student/parent/administrator conference, Saturday School, suspension, expulsion.

**Classroom Guidelines**

* Respect others. This has many implications. It means no talking while the instructor or another student is speaking. It also means that no one will be subject to a personal attack after sharing their perspective. Argue with the viewpoint, not the individual.
* Be prepared. You must bring the tools of your trade to succeed in class. This includes a three-ring binder and an ample supply of writing utensils. Also included is your frame of mind. Come to school ready to learn.
* Follow directions. I will attempt to be clear every time that I give instruction. If there are any questions please feel free to raise your hand and ask for further clarification.
* Stay on task. This includes remaining in your seat unless you have permission to get up.
* Be punctual. Class begins with the tardy bell. The school tardy policy, outlined in the Ram Tracks, will be followed. If tardiness becomes habitual further consequences will be enacted.
* Sit in your assigned seat each day. Attendance will be taken from the seating chart that will be formed at the beginning of the semester.
* Raise your hand to be recognized by the teacher. One person can speak at a time. Your opinion is welcome just wait for the proper time to express it.

You can succeed in this class! I will do everything I can to ensure that this happens. If you put forth your best effort it will happen. Let’s make this an outstanding, successful school year!

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Return this sheet so I know that you have reviewed the syllabus and understand the classroom rules and procedures. If you have any questions about the syllabus, please contact me as soon as possible.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature**