**Government Course Syllabus**

**MMHS 2019-20**

**Mr. McClure**

**Room H212**

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**Course Study**

*Students in grade twelve pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the Federalist Papers. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship. (CA State Standard for Teaching)*

**Textbook**

McCleneghan, W., American Government. New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006.

**Major Units of Study**

(Tentative Schedule; Subject to Change) Foundations of American Government, Political Behavior, The Three Branches of Government, and Comparative Political systems

**Grading Scale**

90 – 100% A

80 – 89% B

70 – 79% C

60 – 69% D

0 – 59% F

\* In order to receive high school credit (for graduation), you need to earn a D or higher. However, universities will only give credit for a class with a grade of C or higher. *Grades will be posted in the classroom every two weeks. Grades will also be updated on the school website on a regular basis.*

* Grading will be cumulative during the semester. The semester is broken up into three grading periods. Every assignment will be given a point value.
* The class grade will be comprised of:

40% Tests

30% Homework/ Homework Quizzes

10% Current Events

10% School Board/City Council Meeting Report

10% Final Exam

**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**

* **Late** assignments (unless the student has an excused absence, see next paragraph) may be turned in within one class meeting of the due date for a reduced grade. All other late work will be accepted only up until we begin the next chapter; and again, this is only for half of the credit. This penalty will apply regardless of the reason the assignment is late (e.g. computer malfunction), so plan accordingly and do not get behind in your work.
* 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/Walkman/cassette player/MP3/I-Pods/AirPods 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.

**Supplies / Format Requirements**

Students are required by MMHS to come to class prepared to learn. To be prepared for this class, all students must bring a pen and pencil and paper. Any formatting requirements (e.g. research paper) need to be followed. If a student fails to do so, points will be taken off their score.

**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:**

As a high school student you are held to a high standard of achievement and integrity.  You are expected to act as such.  Any student who plagiarizes, lies, cheats, or otherwise misuses the academic environment or other students or their work will be suspended per school district policy.  The grade for the assignment(s) or test(s) in question will be converted to an “F.”  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), sentences, 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.

**School Board/City Council Meeting**

You are required to attend at least one school board or city council meeting this semester. You will be given specific instructions in class. You must follow the instructions on the assignment sheet to earn full credit. You may go to one extra meeting for extra credit.

**Current Events**

You are required to complete two current events this semester. The topics that you can cover are federal or state government issues/policies, foreign policy, the election, and judicial decisions. **You will present your event; turn in the complete article and a one-page (minimum) write-up with a summary of the article and your opinion on the article.**

**Extra Credit/Movies**

There will possibly be one extra credit assignment per semester. If it is offered you should take advantage of the opportunity. We will be watching segments from movies and TV that range from G to PG-13. Please contact me if you do not wish to have your child watch a particular movie.

**Parent/guardian and Student Contact:**

Please feel free to contact me at any time. My contact information is listed at the top of this document. Email is the best way to communicate with me. Keep the syllabus with you in class all year.

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.**

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**Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature**