***Course Syllabus: American Government***

Instructor: Coach Manna

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***Course Description****:* Far too often people argue politics without truly understanding how it works. The purpose of this class is to teach you how government works, what the functions are, and what each branches power actually are. We will cover the Constitution, and its amendment yes, but we will also cover how it was formed, and why. This class will have debates, and some will be spirited. That being said, facts not talking points will be accepted.

***Goals****:*

* Empathy and consideration for others, their differences, and their experiences
* The continued development of critical thinking, analytic, and application skills
* An understanding of how other countries actually look and are, as opposed to the views we currently have.
* An examination of differing points of view and cultural norms throughout the world
* To learn the ability to research issues, and then form their positions based on the facts rather than their opinions.

***Participation****:* Participation is mandatory and will be monitored and assessed via the turning in of their notebooks. These will be part of the projects and activities grade listed below.

***Grading****:* This class is not graded on a weighted system. My class is on a points system, and can be found on my calendar on my weebly page under American Government Calendar. The way the class breaks down is as follows:

* 60% Projects, Activities, Notes, Video’s, and Assignments
* 40% Tests and Quizzes

***Grading Scale:*** 100-90: A

 89-80: B

 79-70: C

 Below 70: F

\*\*\*Please note: D’s will not be given. In order to demonstrate proficiency in the course material students must earn a 70% or better.

***Extra Help****:* I am available to help most days before school from 6:45 – 7:25 (classes start at 7:30) and after school and by appointment. I also routinely check my emails, and that is a reliable and efficient means by which to communicate with me.

***Materials****:* Students will need a notebook, pen, or pencil. A 3 ring binder is optional, but a spiral notebook is required, a composition notebook is also acceptable.

Due dates, most assignments, Powerpoints, and study guides can generally be found on my Weebly website: [www.coachmanna.weebly.com](http://www.coachmanna.weebly.com) and on my Planbook site.

***Submitting Work****:* Work will be collected at the very beginning of class. If a student is absent in the beginning of class, it is incumbent on him or her to follow the established classroom protocols in order to receive credit.

* **See school policy regarding late work.** I am aware that situations come up. I can be flexible, but students must be proactive in apprising me of such situations.

***Make-Up Exams****:* It is incumbent on students to make up tests and quizzes. Students must arrange to make these up within a week on their own initiative. Failure to do so will result in a 0.

***Plagiarism policy:*** Plagiarism is defined as passing someone else’s ideas off as your own and includes copying off of your classmates or any other source on any assignment. If you are caught knowingly committing plagiarism, you will automatically receive a zero for that assignment and will meet with the principal to discuss further disciplinary action.

***Restroom Policy:***  There is one restroom pass for the classroom that can be taken as needed after the first 5 minutes of class. If another student is out and there is an emergency, please raise your hand and ask.

***Things I am particular about:***

* Starting on time (seated with materials)
* Please develop tough skin. (Not everything is meant to be offensive, and when discussing world events some students may have a very different position than yourself, and have as much of a right to be heard as you do.).
* Raising hand with responses- please don’t blurt out answers
* Be respectful to both me, and your classmates. My rules are always visible please follow them.

***Every student has the ability and opportunity to achieve success in this class. Let’s have a great semester!***

The instructor reserves the right to alter the class syllabus at any time. Students will be informed of any changes in class.

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By signing below, you affirm that you have read and understand what is expected in this class.

*Student:* ­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Parent(s):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_