

## **Government**

**John F. Kennedy High School**

**Spring Semester 2017**

**Instructor: Ms. Davis**

**Room C-317**

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### **Course Description:**

Twelfth grade government provides students with a better understanding of how the American government system works, but also introduces them to political systems around the world. In the class students, will compare government systems and their respective roles, while also analyzing the changes that occur in government throughout history. Special attention will be paid to the evolution of American values, civic duties, civil rights, and the branches of government. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Understand aspects of political and economic theory and how it was applied in designing America's government and economic systems.
- Identify and analyze important primary sources that helped shape American society and politics.
- Construct a research paper guided by a well-developed thesis statement.
- Create important and essential study habits and skills in preparation for college, including:
  - o Proper note taking
  - o Study habits that translate at home
  - o Organizational skills
  - o Engaging in thoughtful and respectful discourse
- Develop cohesive vocabulary within the context of the content material
- Learn to share their ideas in a responsible manner with and for their fellow classmates
- Find relevancy and apply understanding of political and economic content using and following mass media

### **Reading Required for the Course:**

**Textbook: Magruder's American Government**

**Newspaper articles**

**Online articles**

### **Accommodations:**

Students' needs are the greatest priority in the class. If there are any accommodations that need to be made (e.g. preferential seating, testing procedures, note taking assistance, etc.) please notify the teacher as soon as possible to make the arrangements. The goal is to make sure all students feel comfortable in the classroom.

### **Classroom Climate:**

As this is an American Government course, some of the topics have the ability to get heavy and thought provoking. In order to have impactful and effective discussions of these topics, everyone in the classroom should act respectfully. When another person is openly sharing their opinions or thoughts, it is best to listen to them and take in what they have to say. You may not always agree with the opinions expressed by others and that is fine, but

everyone should respect the right to one's own opinion. The goal of the class is not to argue with or upset one another. The goal of the class is to have a safe environment where thoughts can be shared openly and respectfully.

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend class prepared with materials daily. In the event that a student is unable to make it to class, it is best that they get the missing work from either the teacher or from a classmate.

If the student will be out for more than one day, it is their responsibility to communicate with the teacher to receive missing work as well as other accommodations if necessary. You will have as many days to turn in the work as the amount of days absent. Students with unexcused absences will not be allowed to make up any quizzes from the day(s) they have missed.

**Tests need to be made up within a week, unless otherwise specified.**

**Tardy Policy:**

Students that are tardy will be sent to a campus monitor to get a Tardy Pass – This will result in a detention for the student (JFK Policy).

**Classroom Behavior:**

In order for all students to have an opportunity to learn, students are expected to follow directions and stay on task throughout the class period. Moreover, all students should feel comfortable in the classroom. In the event that these conditions are not fulfilled, the following steps will be taken:

1. A warning
2. The Campus Monitor will be summoned

**Cellphone Policy:**

Cell phones should remain turned off and put away during class sessions. There are only two occasions in which phones are allowed to be out. The first occasion is if there is an emergency. The second occasion is if the teacher allows students to use their phones for quick research purposes inside the classroom. Cellphone use will be directly connected to the participation grade in the class. Every time the teacher spots a student with their phone out, that student will lose 5 points from their weekly participation grade.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to complete their own work. Any copying, cheating, or plagiarizing will not be tolerated. Students will receive a "U" in Citizenship on their report card as well as face other consequences. Consequences are at the discretion of the teacher and may include: zero credit, administrative action, or failure of this class.

**Participation Grade:**

There will be a weekly participation grade worth 25 points. Students are responsible for sharing answers or thoughts with the class at least 3 times a week. This will be tracked. Students will lose participation points by having their cellphones or any other electronic devices out. Students will also lose participation points for being disruptive or talking out of turn.

**Grading Scale:**

A= 90%+	D= 60%+
B= 80%+	F= 59% or below
C= 70%+	

**Course Grades will be distributed as follows:**

<b><u>Classwork:</u></b> (Individual or Group) 1. Close Reading of Texts 2. In class assignments 3. Weekly Warm-Ups/Close/Summary	40%
<b><u>Homework:</u></b> 1. Chapter Notes 2. Weekly article write up	20%
<b><u>Participation:</u></b> 1. Responsive in class discussion 2. Sharing answers with class 3. Adhere to cellphone policy	15%
<b><u>Assessments:</u></b> 1. Quizzes 2. Group Projects 3. Individual Projects 4. Writing Assignments	25%
<b><u>Total:</u></b>	100%