



# 2018-2019 COURSE SYLLABUS

## American Government

Mr. Messineo

Room T7

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### Course Description:

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on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the Federalist Papers.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.

### Textbook:

Magruder's *American Government*

### Course Objectives:

In addition to the above course description, students will also be expected to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

- Analyzing text, both primary and secondary sources.
- Writing well-organized persuasive essays in which they interpret sources and events to formulate, support, and defend their own opinions and conclusions.
- Working Collaboratively
- Thinking Critically
- Communicating Effectively
- Creativity

### Civic Action Project:

Students will have to complete a year-long project which will require them to meet all of the above course objectives. The project is designed to get students to engage in civic issues in order to understand the processes that affect law and policy changes in America. It will also give them the opportunity to pursue a topic/issue that they are passionate about or didn't know they were passionate about. This project will earn them points in both Fall Semester Government and Spring Semester Economics. Their final project grades will apply to Spring Semester. **This project can double as their Senior Project.**



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## Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on the total points earned in the following grade categories and then weighted according to the following percentages.

- Classwork/Homework= 30%
- Exams and Quizzes= 30%
- Research Papers/Projects= 30%
- Final Exam= 10%

Your points in all four categories will be weighted to determine your overall grade. Keep all papers pertaining to your grade. It is your responsibility to prove any discrepancies with the grade sheet. Grade updates detailing your individual progress will be posted regularly in class.

90-100%= A            70-79%= C            59% or lower= F  
80-89%= B            60-69%= D

## Classroom Rules:

Students are expected to conduct themselves as young adults AT ALL TIMES!

Not only are you expected to comply with the school rules, you are expected to comply with mine as well.

Rule #1- Be quiet! (If you have something to say raise your hand, and wait to be called on.)

Rule #2- Be Polite (Conduct yourself in a proper manner at all time, "Please", "Thank you", and "May I", go a long way...)

If you have to think something is rude or inappropriate to ask, it probably is.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior- 50 sentences "Fiddy"

If you call out I will say 50, and you will write "I will not call out" 50 times

Sentences are due by the end of that period.

If the problem persists or if you refuse to write sentences you will be written up and sent to the office.

**I reserve the right to make adjustments to my class as I see fit; pop quizzes, seating changes, etc.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Messineo

## Mr. Messineo's Classroom Rules

- 1) Be quiet- Raise your hand and wait to be called on
- 2) Be polite
- 3) Textbook, pen, paper every day!
- 4) You are responsible for what you miss, even if it is excused
- 5) No eating in class
- 6) No cell phones allowed out in class

**JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL**

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