

Participation in Government and Economics 12 Syllabus

Ms. Waller

Participation in Government

Grade 12

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Course Overview:

- This year in 12th grade you will be studying American political and economic systems and how these systems have shaped the lives of American people. This course will examine the political, social, cultural and economic factors that have helped to create our current political, economic and social climate.
- Participation in Government and Economics is a **one year** course.
- This course will focus on raising your reading and writing skills to a **college** level and enhance your understanding of historical events.
- This course will focus on improving your discussion habits and raising your participation to an appropriate, college-ready level.

Course Goals:

- In addition to exposing students to historical and current events content, the course aims to prepare students for *college-level history work, particularly focusing on reading, writing and discussion skills*.
- Students will develop their ability to complete research and action based projects.
- Students will be able to identify and evaluate different approaches to and interpretations of historical events and topics, and explain the causes and effects of historical change.

Course Skill Objectives:

- Understand and use primary and secondary historical sources in writing and debates.
- Compose essays with accurate information and control of the English language
- Interpret and apply Primary Sources, Historical Literature, Documentary Materials, Maps, Charts, Graphs, and Political Cartoons
- Research and evaluate sources for a given topic
- Understand and utilize debate format to make a historical argument
- Raise organization and note-taking skills to the **college-ready** level
- Raise reading comprehension skills to the **college-ready** level
- Raise writing skills to the **college-ready** level
- Raise participation and discussion skills to the **college-ready** level

Required Materials:

- Organizational system for note keeping. You may use a notebook or a binder for this class. You may bring a kindle or digital device to take notes, but you must come prepared with paper and pencil **every day**.
- Access to the Internet and a printer. Hunter college laptops are available for borrowing. Hunter College has a number of computer labs and areas within the library with Internet access. Please familiarize yourself with the printing systems ASAP.
- **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED AND PRINTED BEFORE CLASS.**

Course Essential Questions: *These are the ideas, questions and goals that will frame your learning throughout the year:*

- How has Americas past, particular in the postwar period, informed our present and transformed our understanding of what it means to be American?
- What is American capitalism? How does this system impact Americans today?
- How does our government function, historically and currently?
- What role does race and class play in our ability to access the American Dream?
- How can **we** work to improve society?

Texts & Resources:

- American Empire: The Rise of a Global Power and the Democratic Revolution at Home by Joshua B Freeman
- Who Rules America? by William Domhoff
- Inequality for All directed by Jacob Kornbulth, starring Robert Reich
- The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
- Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- Silent Black Majority by Michael Joven Fornter

**** *Additional articles and readings will be posted and shared throughout the year.*

Use of Resources:

- The schedule of homework and assignments will be provided to you through the class blog. This is a resource that is meant to help you in becoming more organized and accountable for your work.
- When emailing myself, other teachers and your professors there is a correct format to follow. Be sure to identify yourself in the subject line, address the email to the teacher, identify who you are, what class you are in, and sign your email. Any email that does not follow this format will result in confusion and will not be answered.

Assessments:

Your work in this class is graded on a points system. The more points an assignment is worth, the more it will impact your grade. Projects, tests, **participation** and written assignments will be worth the most points. You can expect to be graded in the following ways:

Final and Midyear Papers	Class Participation and Discussion
Quizzes	Projects
Research Paper, Essays & Written Work	Presentations
Class Preparation	Current Events Presentations

Grading Policy, as per the MSHS grading scale:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 65-69
- F: 64 and below
- At MSHS we use an online system call Jupiter Grades available at www.jupitergrades.com. You, your parents, your advisor, and your guidance counselor will be given access to this system. Your assignments and grades will posted here in a timely fashion so that you may keep track of your progress as the year goes on. ***It is advisable that you check your grades regularly so that you are aware of any missing work or low grades that might be amendable.***
- ***Extra credit means extra work.*** If you are missing many assignments, therefore not keeping up with the work, then you will not be given additional work to compensate for your grade. Any considerations for extra credit will be given on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Support:

- You will have regularly scheduled study halls where you will have the opportunity to complete work on the college campus
- You may schedule office hours with me via email whenever you need additional support.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Always give your best effort on all class activities and assignments. That means coming to class prepared with your notes, any digital devices you require, paper, a pen, and your assignments.
2. Academic Freedom: All students have a right to their opinions, however unpopular. How you support your opinions is a key to doing well in this class. Respect for the opinions of others is a class requirement.
3. Remember that your personal honor and integrity are a very precious and important part of who you are as a person. Therefore, I expect that you will do all of your OWN work at all times (see the MSHSHS History Dept. Plagiarism Policy below).
4. **Do not be late.** Be inside the door when the bell rings, unless you have a legitimate excuse to be tardy.
5. Remember, this is OUR class, yours as well as mine. Your actions have a direct effect on everyone around you, including me.
6. Do NOT use your cellphone during class unless explicitly instructed to do so.
7. All rules and expectations are subject to change at Ms. Waller's discretion.

MSHSHS History Department Late Work Policy:

- It is expected that your work will be turned in by the assigned date. Assigned work received after the prescribed date will not be eligible for full credit. If you are absent you will be required to make up any missed assignments including tests. One day of absence affords one day of make-up work opportunity. If you are absent, **a note is required to allow late work to receive full credit.** Late Assignments will receive a deduction in points as listed below:
 - Received at the time due: Eligible for Full Credit
 - Received 1 day past due date: -Graded out of 75%
 - Received 2 days past due date: -Graded out of 50%
 - 3 or more days past due date: Not Accepted, 0%

MSHSHS History Department Plagiarism Policy:

- All work is to be completed in your own words.
- Work that is not your own must be properly cited using MLA format.
- MSHSHS History teachers and administration will deal with incidences of plagiarism on a case-by-case basis. *Students should be aware that some plagiarism cases may result in punishment beyond the school level, as there are state and federal laws protecting copyrighted works.*
- The following items **MAY** be copied directly from the textbook:
 - Definitions of vocabulary words
 - Headings used in the textbook for note-taking formats
- If a student is unsure of their use of words from a source, they must inform the teacher of their need for support BEFORE the assignment is due.