

United States and Virginia Government, Course Syllabus

Instructor:

Mrs. Cecilia Baker, Room 132. Class meets for 95 minutes Monday to Friday. I have First Block Planning, and I am available from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. and after 2:45 P.M. You may contact me on my cell phone 757-694-8248 or via email cecilia.baker@accomack.k12.va.us

Course Description:

This is a survey course in American Government. Students will be expected to master the content knowledge and skills, and to acquire the knowledge necessary to participate effectively as citizens of the United States. The focus of the course is on the Constitution, the political process, and the role of the Supreme Court.

Textbook and Other Resources:

The course utilizes **Pearson Education's, Magruder's American Government**, 2018 edition. The text will be supplemented with material from the Internet. Until we secure the online textbook, please read the notes provided for each chapter.

Grading Policy and Scale:

The grading policy is the scale used in Accomack County: A; 95%-100%; A-; 90-94%; B+:87-89; B:83-86%; B-:80-82%; C+:77-79%; c:73-76%; C-: 70-72%; D+:67-69%; D:63-66%; D-: 60-62%; F: 0-59%. Grades will be weighted: Tests 40%; Quizzes and Projects 30%; Class Work Activities 20%; Home Work Activities 10%.

Course Calendar and Outline:

Arcadia provides each student with a planner, and it is expected that the student will maintain assignments with due dates in their planner. In addition, assignment due dates are available on the Internet through the Public Portal of Power School.

Course Activities:

Students will be graded based on assigned class work, homework, quizzes, and test. There will be a series of debate topics assigned and your child will be expected to be prepared to debate both the pro and the con of contemporary issues facing America. **Reading** from the text or other sources is assigned **nightly**. Each student is expected to complete the **daily reading assignment** and to have their **Reading Log** signed by their parent or guardian. Assigned reading is tested; therefore it is essential that it be done. In addition, each student is required to either take a weekly Current Events Quiz or to submit a weekly summary of a Current Event on the National or International level. A format for completing the Current Event will be provided. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE A ZERO, UNTIL LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBMITTED. THE FLOOR OF 50% HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.**

Parents, please sign each side of the course syllabus, indicating that you have read and will have your child comply with what is requested.

Student Name & Parent Signature: _____

Date

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If you have a home computer with Internet access you can view your child's grades at any time. Approximately every two weeks a **Progress Report** will be issued noting grades and missing assignments. Parents or guardians are expected to sign these reports and return them to school. If your child has missing assignments, indicate on the progress report what actions are being taken to make up the missing assignments.

Course Materials:

Chromebook (school issued at no cost to students). All tests and quizzes will be done electronically. **Chromebook must be fully charged and functional.**

Class Rules: Students are expected to come to each class, on time, and prepared to work. Students should

- Attend to restroom needs, counselor visits, and other personal concerns outside of class time. Face masks and social distancing are not required in the building, but we need to be aware that there are still risks associated with Covid, therefore, if you are immunocompromised please keep yourself safe.
- Be on time. When you enter the classroom be seated, open your Chromebook, and begin work on the journal topic.
- Be polite. Please respect your classmates, yourself, your family and me. No profanity or insults are allowed.
- Be prepared. Bring required materials to class, have Chromebook charged, and assigned text book available.
- Be productive. Stay involved in classroom activities. If you find yourself falling behind let me know. Participate. All I ask is that you give our class your 'best shot'.
- Submit all class work as it will be graded.
- Do not **cheat**. Actions considered to be **cheating** include using online sites for answers rather than doing the work yourself; copying another student's test answers, homework, class work, or notes.
- If you are absent the class notes will be available electronically.
- Everyone has a right to learn so disruptive behavior is unacceptable. If you disrupt the class, you will be asked to leave.

Field Trips / Speakers / Projects:

With a return to normal, we may have the opportunity to take a field trip. We may have a Virginia State Trooper as a speaker to discuss police use of force, and what one should do if stopped by a law enforcement office. The students will be asked to participate in political activities that arise here on the Eastern Shore.

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Student Name & Parent Signature: _____

Date