**AP US Government and Politics Mrs. April Baxter**

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**Course Description**

Advance Placement United States Government and Politics is one semester course. AP Government and Politics “will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics.” *AP Central*

**AP Exam**

In order to receive full credit for the course students are required to take the AP Exam. The Government and politics exam will occur on Thursday, May 4, 2017 @ 8 am

**Course Grade**

Tests/Projects – 40%

Homework/classwork – 30%

Quizzes – 20%

Class Participation – 10%

**Exams/Projects**

AP Government and Politics tests are designed to prepare you for a challenging Advance Placement Exam in May. There will be at least 5 unit tests that will cover all the chapters in the book. The exams will center on the AP designated unit of study and may include questions from previous units. It is critical that you keep up with your reading and your assignments so that you will be adequately prepared for the test. Projects and/or papers that correspond with the unit may be assigned. Class time will be allocated to introduce and begin projects and/or papers. However, it is expected for such assignments to be worked on outside of class time.

**Homework/Classwork**

Homework and classwork will be graded for accuracy. Assignments may consist of readings, questions, graphic organizers, seminars, and other various assignments. Included within this category will also be writings designed to model the free response questions included within the AP exam. The assigned reading is extremely important in this course. We cover a lot of material in a short amount of time and students need to come to class with an introduction to the material. Not all reading assignments will be discussed within class, however students will still be held responsible for such material. It can be argued that your greatest tool for success in this course is the textbook. It is for this reason that **you should plan to be quizzed at least twice a week on the assigned reading**. Quizzes may be given in any format and can vary in duration. You are encouraged to read the chapter more than once in order to help you understand and retain the large amounts of information in each chapter.

**Additional Assistance/Online Help**

I am available to assist students if additional help is needed. Plans to come by before or after school should be arranged beforehand. Students should check the class website for posted information as well as weekly assignments.

**Tardy/Absent**

Students must report to class on time. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the bell rings. The first two times a student is tardy will be considered a warning. Upon the third tardy students will be referred to administration for ASD.

If you are absent it is your responsibility two make up your missed work. Plans to make up formal assessments should be arranged with the teacher. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that he or she picked up the missed work from the designated folder. You must make up missed work due to absences within **five (5) days** of your return to school. After the five days the rules for late work apply. Formal assessments should be made up before school or after school in order to not miss additional instructional time.

Missing the day before an exam does NOT excuse from taking the exam on the scheduled date.

**Late Work**

Late work will not be accepted for homework and/or classwork beyond one after the due date and points will be deducted. Work not turned in at the start of class will be considered late. Late work will have 10% of the total point value deducted. Projects not turned in at the designated time in class will be considered late. Late projects will not be accepted past the fourth day and will have 10 points deducted for each late day.

**Classroom Rules**

* All Craven County and New Bern High School rules apply and must be followed.
* Follow teacher instructions and ALL procedures for class.
* Be respectful of others in class. This includes not talking when the teacher or another student is talking.
* No one will be dismissed until the floors are clean, textbooks are put away, and everyone is in their seat.
* Students are to be on task and well behaved during class. Students should only be working on class assignments for AP GAP during class time.
* Students may have a drink in class only if the drink has a sealable lid. Drinks that can be spilled are not to be brought into the classroom. This includes milk cartons and soda cans.
* Students should not be using an electronic device during class unless instructed to do so.
* Use the honor code for tests, quizzes, and other assignments. Cheating will not be tolerated; I want to see YOUR work, YOUR effort, and YOUR ideas.

**Textbook:**

Each student will be assigned a textbook for this course. It is the student’s responsibility to keep and maintain the book throughout the course. Students should bring their textbook to class and will t**u**rn their textbook in at the end of the semester in the same condition as when they received it.

Edwards, George, Martin Wattenberg, and Robert Lineberry. *Government in America: People Politics,*

*and Policy*. New York: Pearson Education Inc., 2008. Print

**Units of Study**

Unit 1: Constitutional underpinnings of United States Government (chapters 1,2,3)

Unit 2: Political beliefs and behaviors (chapters 6, 9,10)

Unit 3 Political parties, interest groups, and mass media (chapters 7,8,11 )

Unit 4: Institutions of National Government (chapters 12,13,14,15)

Unit 5: Civil Rights and civil liberties (chapters 16,4,5)

Unit 6: Public Policy (chapters 17,18,19,20)

For each unit students will have reading questions and vocabulary. These will be assigned at the beginning of the unit and due on test day for the unit. Vocabulary may be submitted on flash cards, paper, or on the student’s quizlet account. Each unit test will consist of multiple choice questions and at least one free response question.

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