

# Participation in Government and Civics

HFS21QQB/1

P 35 Manhattan High School @ Beacon

Fall 2019

Mr. Kennedy

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The first half of this year will focus on government and your role as a participant in the American political system. This class will touch on many different politics related issues like the Constitution, Trump's impact on politics, and how you can impact the way that our country (and our world) functions.

The topics we will cover will be as follows:

**Unit 1: FOUNDATIONS of AMERICAN DEMOCRACY:** The principles of American democracy are reflected in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and in the organization and actions of federal, state, and local government entities. The interpretation and application of American democratic principles continue to evolve and be debated.

**Unit 2 CIVIL RIGHTS and CIVIL LIBERTIES:** The United States Constitution aims to protect individual freedoms and rights that have been extended to more groups of people over time. These rights and freedoms continue to be debated, extended to additional people, and defined through judicial interpretation. In engaging in issues of civic debate, citizens act with an appreciation of differences and are able to participate in constructive dialogue with those who hold different perspectives.

**Unit 3 RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP:** Active, engaged, and informed citizens are critical to the success of the United States representative democracy. United States citizens have certain rights, responsibilities, and duties, the fulfillment of which help to maintain the healthy functioning of the national, state, and local communities.

**Unit 4 POLITICAL AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION:** There are numerous avenues for engagement in the political process, from exercising the power of the vote, to affiliating with political parties, to engaging in other forms of civic participation. Citizens leverage both electoral and non-electoral means to participate in the political process.

**Unit 5 PUBLIC POLICY:** All levels of government—local, state, and federal—are involved in shaping public policy and responding to public policy issues, all of which influence our lives beyond what appears in the Constitution. Engaged citizens understand how to find, monitor, evaluate, and respond to information on public policy issues.

## **Rules:**

1. Arrive to class on time- When you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up what you missed.
2. Do not leave the classroom without permission or a pass. For your safety it is important that the paraprofessional and I know where you are at all times.
3. No use of cell phones/electronic devices, charging is also not allowed. (Unless mandated by your IEP)
4. Do not eat or bring food to class

5. Respect other people, their personal space, and their belongings

**Consequences:**

- 1st offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd offense: Written report
- 3rd Offense: Parents and Guardians contacted
- Repeated use of cell phone may result in you being asked to temporarily turn your phone into the office
- Negative behavior may lower your grade towards class participation

**Grading breakdown:**

Category	% of grade	Description
Homework	40%	assignments that we do not have time to finish in class, or short term assignments which are designed to be done at home.
Classwork	30%	assignments which should be completed in class (DO NOWs, short worksheets, etc)
Assessments	30%	Test, Quizzes, Papers, Long Term assignments
Participation	15%	Raising your hand in class, helping your classmates, being respectful and following other class rules

**Late work Policy:**

**One day or more late:** maximum grade possible for that assignment is 70%.

**A week or more late:** Maximum Grade possible for that assignment is 50%

*(Disclaimer: While the rules above will be the standard, work missed due to excused absences may be given some leniency, especially if you speak with me about it beforehand)*

*IN ADDITION: 1st period students- if you are going to be late to school email me to let me know that morning and I will be more forgiving with the lateness policy)*

**DO NOWs/Exit Tickets:**

Each week, Do Nows and Exit Tickets will all be placed on the same sheet. You are to keep them throughout the week, turning them in on Friday.

**Materials:**

Everyday I expect students to bring the following materials: A notebook, a folder, and a pen/pencil. One of each will be provided to you at the beginning of the year, but it is your responsibility to keep track of it. I cannot provide you with another if you lose the one issued to you

**Extra Credit:**

Throughout the semester, I will be offering various extra credit assignments (usually in the form of art or something related to current events, television events, etc). Extra credit points will be determined by effort and will be applied to assessment grades.

*I understand the guidelines for this class and will respect and follow them to the best of my ability.*

Student Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian/Parent Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian/Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_