American Government

Fall Semester 2020-2021
High School
Teacher: Mrs. Kline
Prerequisite: None
Department: Social Studies
Credits: 1
Room 210
E-Mail: meaghan.kline@qacps.org

Course Description:
Government is a required Social Studies course for graduation. The aim of the course is to introduce the student to the fundamentals of becoming a well-rounded, productive, and knowledgeable citizen in our society. We will also be looking at current events that are shaping our world today. An emphasis will be placed on the development of skills relating to evaluating the credibility of a variety of sources.

Course Content Outcomes*:
1. Students will understand the historical development and current status of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence, with particular emphasis on the democratic skills and attitudes necessary to become responsible citizens.
2. Students will understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of Maryland, the United States, and the World through both a multicultural and historic perspective.
3. Students will use geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time.
4. Students will develop economic reasoning to understand the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world.

Course Skills Outcomes*
Students shall use reading, writing, and thinking processes and skills to gain knowledge and understanding of political, historical, and current events using disciplinary and inquiry literacies.

-6.1. The student will demonstrate the ability to evaluate sources and use evidence.
   A. The student will evaluate the credibility of sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
   B. The student will identify credible, relevant information contained in sources

-6.2: The student will demonstrate the ability to communicate and critique conclusions.
   A. The student will construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses.

Course Outline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/Unit of Study</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Foundations of the United States Government</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The Legislative Branch</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
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<td>3. The Executive Branch</td>
<td>2.5 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The Judicial Branch and Justice for All</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Domestic and Foreign Policy</td>
<td>2.5 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Economics</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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**Emphasis on current events will be embedded throughout all units**

*Standards developed by the Maryland Department of Education
End of Course Assessments
Students are required to take the American Government High School Assessment (HSA) in January. This assessment is separate from the final exam and will not be factored into the course grade. However, the state of Maryland requires students to earn a passing grade on the Government HSA in order to graduate.

Textbooks/Materials:

- 3 ring binder
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pens/Pencils
- a box of Kleenex (not required but greatly appreciated)
- Laptop and charger

Virtual Classroom Expectations
- Students must log on to Schoology daily at the assigned times.
  - synchronous learning: students are expected to join a live lesson through google meet and engage in learning through note taking, discussion, or other class activities
  - asynchronous learning: students are expected to log-in to the class google meet at the assigned times. I will provide the lesson focus and directions for assignments before students begin their independent learning.
- Students are asked to do their best to find a quiet learning environment, free from distractions when attending google meet sessions
  - I realize this may not always be possible given the circumstances. If you cannot find a quiet environment, please make sure your microphone is muted unless you are speaking to the class.
  - Cell phones are distractions and should not be used during google meets.
- Respect for individuals is to be displayed at all times. We will be discussing many controversial issues in this class. I will never try to sway your opinion, but I will expect you to respectfully listen to opposing viewpoints.

Attendance
Regular attendance is imperative for success in the course. Schoology will be used throughout the semester as a way to communicate with students and to manage assignments. Students are expected to access Schoology and engage in assignments daily.

Classwork and Homework Policy:
- Following the county policy for virtual learning, students will have three days to turn in work after the due date without incurring a penalty
  - The deadline to turn in work is two days after the due date. There will be a 10% penalty deducted each day for work submitted past the initial three day grace period..
- Any instance of plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Plagiarism includes turning in work that contains information or answers copied from other students, the internet, or any other resource. All assignments are intended to be completed individually unless specifically instructed otherwise

Grading Policy:
Student assignments will be divided between two categories: Progress and Mastery Assessments. Progress assessments include class activities, writing assignments, independent practice, and small projects. Mastery assessments include unit exams, some quizzes, large projects, and presentations.

1. Mastery..........................50%
2. Progress..........................50%

Powerschool
Students and guardians can access powerschool through the school website or by using this link: https://powerschool.qacps.k12.md.us/public/home.html. I will use my gradebook to communicate missing assignments and comments concerning student grades. I encourage students and parents to utilize this site in order to stay update concerning student progress and overall grades.
Office Hours

- Office hours will be held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8-10:15 and 2-3:30
- During these times, I will be available for extra help on assignments, reteaching, etc.
- Take advantage of these times!
  - If you would like to meet during office hours please notify me in advance to ensure I do not have any conflicting meetings.
  - I may contact you to schedule a meeting if I think it would be beneficial for your learning. I will contact you at least a day in advance to schedule a meeting time.

**The best way to contact me is by email. My email address is: meaghan.kline@qaeps.org**