**\*AP Government and Politics\***

Course Description and Policies

**~ Mrs. Vandewalle ~**

**Article I: Course Description**

This AP course is a thorough study of the United States government. This course will focus on the Constitution, political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; Congress, the Presidency, bureaucracy, federal courts; and civil rights. Course material will be taught through a variety of means including: lecture and note taking, class discussion, intensive reading, group and individual projects, and current events. Students successfully mastering the course material may earn college credit by passing the AP exam on May 4th.

This college-level course is designed to promote higher-level thinking skills, so students can analyze essential concepts pertinent to U.S. Government and Politics. The subject matter that will be covered in this course will help prepare students for the AP Exam. All information contained in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

The curriculum is divided into the following units:

* Unit One: Foundations of American Democracy (8 days)
* Unit Two: Interactions Among Branches of Government (13 days)
* Unit Three: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (6 days)
* Unit Four: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs (5 days)
* Unit Five: Political Participation (1 days)

**Article II: Expectations**

1. Come to class on time and prepared every day. Being late and unprepared for class will negatively affect your participation grade as well result in disciplinary action.
2. We will be respectful of one another. Behavior that disrupts or interferes with students’ right to learn will not be tolerated. Offensive, disruptive, and disrespectful behavior is not acceptable.
3. Participate in a positive manner. Please participate in class discussions, but do not blurt out answers or interrupt others. You will be held accountable for work and your behavior.
4. Promptly make up class work and homework following absences. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed by contacting me, asking a classmate, or checking the Focus and Canvas.

**Article III: Grades and Policies**

* + Grades:
* Tests and Quizzes (announced and unannounced) 25%
* Classwork and Participation: 20%
* Homework:20%
* Major Assignments (Reflection Papers, Current Events, Debates, Projects and Political Participation): 20%
* Binder: 15%
  + Test Corrections**:** Students in AP Government are strongly encouraged to do test corrections on the multiple-choice portion of their tests in accordance with the parameters and procedures listed below:
    - * Information:
        + All students may complete test corrections, if desired, on the multiple-choice section.,
        + Corrections will be completed during lunch/after school.
        + Students may earn back up to 1/3 credit for multiple choice questions missed.
        + Students will have from the time that tests are returned to the following unit exam to complete corrections.
        + Students must remain on good terms and in good behavior to maintain this privilege.
      * Procedures
        + Students will write a short explanation of why the answer is the correct answer.
        + Students may use their book and/or notes to answer the questions.
        + Granting of credit is completely at the teacher’s discretion.
* Due Dates: Due at the beginning of the class. Late assignments will be penalized.

**Article IV- Materials**

Readings-

* Textbook: George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenburg, and Robert L. Lineberry. *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy*, 14th Ed. \*\*THIS WILL BE PROVIDED IN PDF\*\*
* Edwards, Wattenburg, Howell; ***Government in America***, ***People, Politics, and Policy***. 17th edition.

New York: Pearson, 2018.

* ***United States Government and Politics****,* Wolford, David. Des Moines, Iowa: AMSCO Publications, 2019
* ***Lanahan Readings in the American Polity,*** 6th ed., Lanahan Publishers, Baltimore, MD., 2016
* Other readings and course materials will be distributed as needed throughout the school year.
* 5 Steps to a 5 will also be useful for review

Materials- A *binder and loose-leaf paper* (at least two inches thick, separate from other subjects), pens, and a highlighter

-All handouts and notes should be kept in a binder and must be present every day. .

*(If you have trouble obtaining any of these supplies, please let me know, we’ll figure it out!)*

Download these apps-

1. Interactive Constitution 2. SCOTUSblog 3. Congress (Android)

4. Congress Reveal (iOS) 5. News app of your choice 6. Countable

7. OYEZ (iOS / Online)

**Article V- Procedural**

Attendance: You should have an EXCELLENT attendance record.

* If you are late more than three times in a marking period, you will face disciplinary action
* Any time you “cut” class, you can expect to receive a zero for any work completed that day and face further disciplinary action.

Absences: It is YOUR responsibility to make up missed assignments when you are absent. Being absent does not mean you will get an extension. Please contact me through Email, Twitter, texting, or MBC.

* If an absence is scheduled (trips, sports, etc.) please get assignments from me in advance.
* Make-up a test/quiz: ON THE DAY YOU RETURN to school- NO EXCUSES
  + Absent the day before a test: you will be expected to take the exam on the regular test day.
  + You are responsible for scheduling a make-up examination. If you fail to do this, the grade will be recorded as a ZERO.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism, copying, cheating, etc.

CITE YOUR SOURCES!!! Any type of academic dishonesty will result in the loss of credit for that assignment and contacting your family.

**\*Random:**

* If a substitute leaves a student’s name, that student will automatically receive an immediate office referral and a phone call home and to coaches. NO QUESTIONS ASKED! Bonus passes will be given if a substitute gives your name for a positive reason.

**AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam:**

* It is the policy of Boca Ciega High School that all student enrolled in the course (AP US Government and Politics) will sit for the Advanced Placement Exam on **Monday, May 4, 2020** which will give you college credit for the course should you earn a “3”.
* The exam consists of two sections: 80-minute multiple-choice section (55 questions) and a 100-minute free-response section with an argumentative essay (3 FRQ questions- 20 minutes each and 1 Argument Essay 40 minutes suggested).

**\*\*AP EXAM for Government & Politics: Monday, May 4th (8:00 AM) \*\***

**Article VI- Communication**

Study Sessions: My door is always open. I am free for Extra Help during lunch and afterschool.

Instructor: Mrs. Durspek

Room 4-233

Contact:

Email: durspeka@pcsb.org

Phone: 727-893-2780 ext. 1367

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***\*Please Sign and return to Mrs. Durspek by Monday, August19, 2020\****

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*AP GOVERNMENT & POLITICS\***

**STUDENT—PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT FORM**

I have read the above expectations for the AP Government and Politics Course and have a good understanding of the time, commitment, and dedication necessary to achieve success. We have discussed the course outline and expectations together. We will bring questions or concerns to Mrs. Durspek throughout the year.

**Home Contact:** I prefer:

* Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Video Permission Slip:** Over the course of the year, students will be learning about several key events in government through video clips. With your permission, your student will be enjoying these movies of both educational and entertainment value. Some of these films will be historical in nature; and some will have mature ratings (PG-13, R). I will only be showing appropriate clips if they are rated R. Please review the following statements and **check** whichever applies to you and your student.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my student to view movies/ documentaries that Mrs. Durspek deems appropriate.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_I DO NOT wish for my student to view movies/ documentaries that are rated R and my son or daughter will complete an alternative assignment.

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Student Signature Date

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Parent Signature Date