

Teachers:

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Course Description: In this course we will explore the political theory and everyday practice that direct daily governmental operations and determine public policies. The main purpose of this course is to prepare students to take the AP Exam for U. S. Government and Politics. The course will essentially be taught on a college level. A significant amount of daily reading and preparation will be required. Course objectives supersede an analysis of government “workings”. Students will develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system in addition to their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Areas of Study: It should be noted that the course will be taught examining the connections of these topics; therefore, certain course concepts will be taught on an ongoing basis and/or as part of review.

Unit I: Constitutional Underpinnings

Text: Edwards Chapters 1, 2, 3

Unit II: Political Beliefs and Behaviors; Mass Media

Text: Edwards Chapters 6, 7, 9 (307-325)

Unit III: Political Parties, Interest Groups, Mass Media, & Nominations/Campaigning

Text: Edwards Chapters 7, 8, 9 (286-307), 10

Unit IV: Institutions of National Government: The Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts

Text: Edwards Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Unit V: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Text: Edwards Chapters 4, 5

Unit VI: Public Policy

Text: Edwards Chapters 16, 17, 18

Textbook and Supplemental Readings

Edwards, George C., Robert L. Lineberry, and Martin P. Wattenberg. *Government in America: People, Politics and Policy* Pearson/Longman, (2012)

The textbook will be supplemented with classroom handouts/primary source documents throughout the semester.

Current Events/Graphs, Maps, Charts, & Political Cartoons

Students are responsible for keeping up with daily events in the nation and world. Students will need to skim various and access appropriate, reliable news media. This will help with completing the required current event assignment (with connections to the curriculum) prior to every test. Specific instructions will be provided. Students will also be assessed on their understanding of quantitative and visually presented information (maps, graphs, cartoons) at regular intervals

Other Materials:

3 ring binder/folder, pen, pencil, notebook paper, expo dry erase marker, AP Review books

Class Policies: The instructor, the students and their parents will abide by the rules and procedures in the student-teacher-parent handbook. General classroom rules include:

- **Be on time.** Students are expected to be in their seats and prepared for class instruction when the bell rings. See student handbook for policy regarding consequences for excessive tardies.
- **Be prepared.** **All materials** (pen, binder and textbook) must be brought to class daily. Turn in all assignments on time. Keep up with your calendar to be prepared for class each day.
- Free Response Tests submitted for grading must be completed in **blue or black ink** only. **Any Free Response Test completed in pencil will not be graded.**

- **Be focused:** Students will be expected to take notes during class. Information delivered via lecture, discussion, or group activities are fair game for quizzes and tests. The student is responsible for taking these notes and for obtaining information missed due to absences.
- **Be respectful and ready to learn/contribute:** Self-discipline and good manners are expected; therefore, students are expected to be attentive, polite, participatory and **respectful of other students**. Student behavior must contribute positively to the learning environment of the classroom at all times and be respectful of class discussions. I consider laying your head down, having your cell phone out without permission, sleeping in class, talking to others at inappropriate times, and working on other subjects while in my class to not be characteristic of what a Northview Titan has: **compassion, positive attitude, integrity, & personal responsibility**; this may result in consequences.
- **LATE WORK POLICY:** Students will be required to submit work on the due date. For assignments turned in **1 day late, a 30% reduction** in the final score will be applied.

For assignments turned in **2 or more days late, a 50% reduction** in the final score will be applied.

I accept late work at any time until ten (10) days before the end of the semester. Students, while it is always best for your grade to turn things in on time, late work is accepted as a benefit to you as 50% is always better than a zero. Students ARE NOT eligible for recovery unless they have submitted all class assignments.

Absences/Make-up Work: Student will be required to submit work on the due date. If a student has an **excused** absence, that student may make up the work with no penalty, provided the student brings in an excuse-note from the office upon returning to class. **It is the student's responsibility to approach the teacher to obtain all work missed for an excused absence.** Students with an excused absence will receive an extension on a due date equal to the number of days missed. **However, if you are absent the day before a quiz or test you will still be expected to take the test with the class on its assigned day. The same applies for due dates of major projects, homework, etc. pre-assigned.** Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a zero grade. **NOTE: If a pattern is noticed of a student missing classes where major assessments are given it will be at the teacher's discretion to offer an alternative assessment in order to insure the integrity and fairness of graded work throughout the course.**

Grading Scale and Weighting: In addition to progress reports/report grades you may keep up to date on your grade through Home Access Center (HAC).

A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 F=69-0

- ☞ 45% Major Tests and Free Response Tests/some Projects
- ☞ 30% Quizzes/some Projects/current events
- ☞ 10% Homework and Classwork (participation, in-class activities, etc)
- ☞ 15% Final Exam (1st Semester); Final Work (2nd Semester)

*** Testing Schedule/Information:** At the end of each unit there will be a test. Some units may have more than one test. Content may be included from previous unit tests on future ones. The unit tests will have multiple choice AND free response questions that are similar to the questions given on the actual AP examination *

Northview Recovery Procedure:

Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. **Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below cumulative average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements.** Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.

Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester (or after the first 6-weeks grading period) as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity.

So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher. **Grading guidelines for recovery assignments will vary by department. It is the responsibility of the student to fully understand the grading guidelines/highest possible score for completed recovery work.**

Learn to Read More Effectively:

Read actively; don't just look at the words. If you spend a half-hour "reading", but are unable to recall anything when you are done, you have wasted your time. Do not ignore pictures, diagrams, tables and sidebars in your textbook. These features serve to make the text more interesting and may include important information. Take notes as you read. If you can condense a 30-page chapter to a few pages of good notes, it is going to be much easier to review. Perhaps most important: keep a list of questions about the reading.

Honor Code: As explained in the student handbook, cheating is defined as "the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience including the use of sources of information other than those specifically approved by the teacher, either during or outside of class." Violations of the honor code will result in a zero for the assignment, plus an honor code violation form placed in the student's disciplinary file. Read the Student/Parent handbook carefully to fully understand what constitutes a violation.

Plagiarism is an Honor Code Violation: Acts of plagiarism can include, but are not limited to: using words or ideas from a published source or the internet without proper permission, using the work of another student (e.g., copying another student's homework, composition, or project in entirety **or** in part, using excessive editing suggestions of another student, teacher, parent, or paid author.

Unless noted by the teacher **ALL** work completed for this course is considered **individual**. Copying other students' work (HW, CW, tests, etc) and working on assignments (inside or outside of class) with other students will be considered as a violation of the honor code. Plagiarism on any project or paper at Northview High School will result in a zero for the assignment and an Honor Code Violation Report. Unless directly stipulated by the teacher, collaboration on written work is not acceptable. Students who willingly provide other students with access to their coursework or homework are also in violation of the Honor Code.

***Please refer to the student handbook for further clarifications and detail on rules and policies at Northview High School. ***