Mr. Dorschner

Room D102

854-2721 ext. 343

Fall Semester 2017

*Advising Time 6th Hour and Resource Period*

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## Citizenship

**Text:** Magruder’s American Government, by William A McClenaghen

**Overview**: This semester course looks at different types of governments around the world and how they compare to the U.S. It will focus on the U.S. Constitution and its importance in all citizens’ lives. It will also go into the different political parties, interest groups and the factors that affect peoples voting behavior. Students will actively participate in a “hands on” setting on how our Judicial System works as well. After this course, students will have a better understanding of how their legislative, executive, and judicial branches of their federal, state, and local governments operate. Students should complete this course with the knowledge of what it means to be a responsible American citizen.

**Class Rules**:

1. Be here and on time for class. Every student is allowed one tardy per quarter, after that a 15 minute detention will be served with me at 7:30AM. Be in your chair when the bell rings!
2. Be prepared for class. Have books opened to appropriate pages and notebook and pens/pencils out and ready. I do not supply you with these items!
3. Don’t deprive anyone of an education. Keep your mouths shut when others are talking or I am teaching.
4. Respect others rights and views as well as your own.
5. Leave the room in better condition that when you entered.
6. Keep a positive attitude.

You will be allowed **one** free pass each quarter to use the restroom/go to your locker or any other excuse that I feel is acceptable. After that, you will serve a 15-minute detention with me the next morning if you need to leave the classroom. Bathroom breaks are to be done in between periods, during lunch, or before/after school.

Come to class prepared! Textbook, notebook, pen/pencil are a must! Assignment notebooks will be helpful as well.

**Grading:**

100-93 A 89-87 B+ 79-77 C+ 69-67 D+

92-90 A- 86-83 B 76-73 C 66-63 D

82-80 B- 72-70 C- 62-60 D-

**Do not let your grade come down to the last week of the semester since this is a required course to graduate.**

**Participation:** Students will be graded on a total point system. Students will be required to partake in group discussions and complete all homework and daily assignments.

**EACH QUARTER WILL BE WORTH 150 POINTS.**  If you are removed from class due to inappropriate behavior, 50 points will be deducted from your participation grade. **If there is ANY misuse of the Chromebook technology in this classroom, you will serve five (5) detentions with me and will be docked 50 participation points per offense.** Notebooks will be checked and graded every month. In the event of an unexcused absence, the student will be given 50% of its total point value and the student must make up the work the day of arrival. If it is an excused absence, the student will have two days to make up the work for each day absent. All makeup tests will be given at 7:30 AM. You are responsible for assignments and notes on days you are absent!

**State Civics Exam:** Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, Wisconsin law requires that all students pass a state mandated civics exam in order to graduate from high school. This exam will be given up to 3 times this semester so students fulfill this requirement.

**Daily Assignments:** students will be required to do vocabulary, section reviews and worksheets. In-class assignments will also be given periodically.

**Extra Credit:** Do not rely on extra credit. We will occasionally play Current Events and review games around exam/quiz time, but I do not assign extra credit to assist you in boosting your grade. YOU NEED THIS COURSE TO WALK ACROSS THE STAGE IN MAY!!

**Projects:** We will be doing various projects throughout the semester. Research papers, mock trials, and class presentations are just a few of the projects that will be covered in this class.

**Tests and Quizzes**: Quizzes may be given on a weekly basis and tests will be given every 2-3 weeks. Test content will come from the text, lecture, and other supplementary material in the form of short answer, fill in the blank, true/false, matching, and essay.

1st quarter – 40% 2nd quarter – 40% Final Exam – 20%

# Course Outline

Unit 1 – Principles of government and the origins of our American government

Chapters 1&2

Unit 2 – The Constitution and Federalism

Chapters 3,4,19,20,21 and movie “Monkey Trial”

Unit 3 – Political Parties, Voting Behavior, and the electoral process, and movie “Man of the Year”

Chapters 5&6

Unit 4 --The Presidency

Chapters 13, 14, Research Paper, and movie “The American President”

Unit 5 – Federal court System

Chapter 18, Mock Trial, movie “Philadelphia”

Unit 6 – Congress

Chapters 10, 11, 12, and movie on the History of Congress