EDWARD R. MURROW H.S. SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

MR. BARGE, PRINCIPAL MS. SINCLAIR, TEACHER

***AMERICAN GOVERNMENT COURSE GUIDELINES***

***SATURDAY SCHOOL***

**Welcome to Government!** This is a senior course that will cover some details of the development and set up of our government, peoples’ role in government, and constitutional issues. You are always welcome to ask questions on course material and independent reading related to class discussions. You are welcomed to respectfully challenge ideas in any discussion we have but please have legitimate sources to support your arguments! Keep your notes and handouts readily available throughout the semester course for reference. In addition, we will spend significant time throughout the semester learning and reviewing important reading, writing, and studying skills that will help you to become better Social Studies students. Our goal for this semester is to create an open learning environment for the purpose of learning from each other as well as the teacher.

**More Serious Note:** **You need this class to graduate** so make certain that you are on top of your work throughout the semester. There is **no extra-credit or negotiation**; what is due is due, when it is due!

***A. YOUR GRADE:***

1. **APEX Program**

This is a blended learning class. Since we are meeting for three hours, there will be a mix of class discussions and online learning. All quizzes and tests will be given online through the Apex program.

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION (20%)**
	* In order for us to learn from one another, class participation is regularly expected from students. It is expected in discussions as well as group work done throughout the semester.
	* Of course to receive credit for class participation, you must attend every class. Your attendance is necessary in this class as well as your active participation.
	* Participation is part of your grade. It includes being alert, actively listening, attempting to answer questions when called on, actively taking notes, and focusing. Having your head down means that you are not participating!
	* Arriving late interferes with the class discussion but will also affect your ability to be successful this semester. Being late means that you are not participating!
	* Once the lesson has begun and/or the time is up, you are late! Sign the late sheet which is located near the classroom entrance.
2. **HOMEWORK (25%)**
	* You will receive a homework sheet at the beginning of the class. Assignment due dates can be found on my teacher page at ermurrowhs.org.
	* Homework will be assigned every Saturday. Complete two assignments and hand in at the beginning of class.
	* *Late* *Policy*: There is none. I will not grade late assignments without an absent note. As part of the late penalty, late assignments will not receive full credit.
3. **SEMESTER PROJECT (20%)**

There will be a research project required for this class. Details will be given to you in the future. Be aware that the project will be due in parts and will have multiple deadlines.

***B. CLASSROOM RULES***

¨ **Respect yourself.**

 - Dress appropriately.

 - Use appropriate language.

- Come prepared.

¨ **Respect your peers.**

 - Talk one at a time.

-Treat others how you want to be treated. - Respect solo time.

¨ **Respect your teacher.**

 - Come on time.

 - Use inside voice.

 - Pay attention.

¨ **Respect your environment.**

 - Clean up after yourself.

 - Return items to their homes.

If you do not follow these guidelines, any of the following may be a consequence . . . .

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| * Your seat can be moved.
* Private conference with teacher.
* Unnecessary/inappropriate items may be confiscated.
* Guidance/Teacher/Student Conference.
 | * Parent phone call.
* Parent/Student/Teacher conference.
* Detention.
* Though rare, suspension is a possibility as well.
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***C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:***

If you have any questions, comments, or difficulties pertaining to the course, or even if you have any suggestions, please feel free to see me. This semester I am free after D band in Room 285F. I would also be happy to make appointments to meet before and/or after school.

Remember, your peers are in this with you. I encourage you to get the phone numbers from two classmates in the event of your absence. This person can even be your study buddy!

I wish you the best of luck this semester. May it be a successful and enjoyable one for each and every one of you. Remember, your opinion counts!!! I strongly encourage you to voice your opinion during all lessons whether you strongly agree or disagree. Not only will that spark up interesting debate on the lesson covered but it will help you in your homework assignments and exams.