**GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS**

Ms K-V 2016-2017 Syllabus

Email: margaret.kerrvandersl@pueblocityschools.us

Phone: 253-6506

**Welcome!** In this syllabus I will outline exactly what will be expected of you in my class. After reading this through, you will sign the syllabus and then take it home to have your parents sign it. THIS IS A GRADED ASSIGNMENT and it is not optional.

**CLASS RULES:**

1. BE RESPECTFUL: this applies to yourself, your peers, your teacher, the classroom, the school.

2. COME PREPARED: this means being on time and having all the materials you need for the day as well as getting enough sleep and eating well so you can pay attention and be alert.

3. PARTICIPATE: participation includes doing your work, answering questions when asked, and being an active and attentive part of all class activities.

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

1. YOU WILL HAVE A NOTEBOOK OR BINDER SOLELY FOR THIS CLASS: binder is recommended so that you can easily hold onto all documents passed out to you.
2. YOU WILL USE CITATIONS AND MLA FORMATTING/YOU WILL NOT PLAGIARIZE: If you do not give credit where credit is due it is considered plagiarism. I take plagiarism very seriously, and a plagiarized assignment will always warrant a call home and a 0 on the assignment.
3. YOU WILL BE HERE: Attendance is unbelievably important. I can’t stress that enough.
4. YOU WILL BE ON TIME: After you are **20 minutes** late, you are considered absent and will be marked as such. After 3 unexcused absences you will receive a referral. After 3 tardies I will phone home as a warning, then after the 4th tardy you are given Friday school.
5. YOU WILL OBSERVE THE PASS POLICY: You may not go to the restroom in the first or last 10 minutes of class, and you may not go while I am instructing. The appropriate time to ask to use the restroom is during individual work time only. Abuse of pass privileges will result in a phone call home and possible revocation of ability to leave the room.
6. YOU WILL TURN IN WORK ON TIME: If you are absent, you have 2 days to make up that assignment then it is considered late. If your absence is unexcused, you are subject to the late work policy.
7. YOU WILL ONLY TURN IN COMPLETE WORK: I don’t accept incomplete work. If you don’t know the answer, attempt it or ask a question if I’m around to be asked.
8. YOU WILL NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE: Cell phones and other electronics should not be used during class unless for a purpose for which the student has specifically asked permission (emergencies, class research, etc.). If a cell phone is deemed a distraction, the cell phone will be sent to cell phone jail for an hour beginning when the instructor takes the phone. A second infraction is 1 hour of jail time plus a phone call, the third means the phone is given to the office for the remainder of the school day. 4th and subsequent infractions are left to the discretion of the office who may choose to hold a student’s phone until a parent comes to collect it, or for the remainder of the year if infractions continue.
9. LATE WORK: Late work will receive no more than 50% credit and must be turned in within a week of the assigned due date. All late work MUST be complete and high quality or it will not be accepted.
10. YOU WILL OBSERVE ALL SCHOOL POLICIES: dress code, behavior, etc.

**CLASS WEBSITE:**

I do have a class website. This is a truly useful resource and I highly recommend you use it whenever possible. On this site I will post all class notes, any in-class assignments, weekly vocabulary, etc. The web address is [www.kvclass.weebly.com](http://www.kvclass.weebly.com). If you are going to use the notes on the website rather than taking them on your own, that’s fantastic, but you must print them off at the beginning of the week because I don’t want students using electronics during lectures and I need you to have a copy of notes you can reference at all times. I will do periodic notebook checks. You should have a designated area JUST for your class notes that I can check.

**WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN THIS CLASS:**

1. WRITING: You will do a lot of writing assignments in this course, including short and essay-length writing samples.

2. READING: We will read a variety of texts, including news articles, book excerpts, and the textbook. If you struggle with reading any material, please see me.

3. TESTS and QUIZZES: You will have unit tests after each unit we cover as well as periodic quizzes. You will always be notified of any assessment in advance.

4. PROJECTS: We will do a couple of major projects with extended time to complete those assignments. Because they are extended assignments, I have high expectations for their quality.

5. CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK: Most assignments will be turned in the day of or the day after they are assigned unless otherwise noted. Vocabulary is on the board every week and must be completed and turned in by Friday of that week. Opening and Closing Activities are completed at the start and end of each class.

6. SPEAKERS: We will have a number of guest speakers come talk with the class about what it is like to serve at various levels of government, the beliefs of their political parties, etc.

GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS UNITS:

1. **Constitutional Foundations**: an exploration of the historical roots of American government, founding documents, the Constitution, etc.
2. **Structures and Functions of Government:** a review of the basic national/state/local responsibilities, how laws are made, etc.
3. **Elections and Political Parties:** an overview of how American elections occur, the various influencing factors including political parties, interest groups, etc.
4. **Comparative Systems and Foreign Policy:** a look into the varying forms of government and how these differences impact US foreign relations
5. **Intro to Econ:** learning how to think like an economist, a look into basic economic principles, including opportunity costs, scarcity, incentives, etc.
6. **Intro to Microeconomics:** a look into the economic behavior of individuals and other small actors within economic structures
7. **Intro to Macroeconomics:** an exploration of the functioning of large-scale market structures
8. **Personal Finance**: students will learn how to use economic thinking to make personal financial decisions

*By signing below you are agreeing that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions stated above.*

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - - - - - - - - - -

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student Signature: ­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_