GOVERNMENT 2019-2020 Fall Course Syllabus

**Mr. Fitzgibbons/jfitzgibbons@germantowncsd.org/518-537-6281**

**Course Website: socialstudiesfitzgibbons.weebly.com**



This course focuses on the structure of the United States government, its role and function, and how citizens and the government interact with each other. Special attention will be paid to current events. Students will be encouraged to understand and participate in the community and governmental process. Several large-scale collaborative projects will be assigned. Discussion and classroom participation will be emphasized during the course. A local final exam is given at the end of the course.

**Areas of Study**

1. Principles of American Democracy
2. Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
3. The Legislative Branch
4. The Executive Branch
5. The Judicial Branch
6. Political & Civic Participation
7. Elections
8. Foreign Policy & Terrorism

**Required Materials**

* 3-ring binder for organizing class notes and handouts
* Writing utensil
* iPad – you will need this EVERYDAY so make sure it is charged!

**Cell Phone Use**

* **Cell phone use is strictly prohibited** in the classroom. We will be utilizing technology on a daily basis, but cell phones will NOT be allowed to be used in place of an iPad. Make sure you bring your iPad EVERYDAY and that it is CHARGED.
* **Cell phones MUST BE placed in the hanging cell phone holder upon entering the classroom.** If a cell phone is not in the holder, and it is seen, you will receive a disciplinary referral

**Homework & Other Assignments**

* Homework consists of a weekly current events journal entry. These are due **EVERY FRIDAY**. Instructions and a journal entry template will be distributed. Entries that are turned in late will receive half credit.
* **If you are absent**, all missed work will be placed in an absent folder corresponding to your course and period. It is **your responsibility** to retrieve the missed work from the folder, complete missed assignments, and get missed notes from me or a classmate.
* This course utilizes the website **NationStates.** You will create a fictional nation. There will be various assignments throughout the semester that utilize NationStates. At the beginning of every class period, you will be required to log into NationStates. Therefore, you MUST bring your iPad EVERYDAY
* There will be several large-scale collaborative projects throughout the semester pertaining to writing legislation, Presidential campaigning, and political advocacy.

**Please Note:** This course utilizes digital textbooks through the Pearson Realize program. All students will have access to the textbook and supplemental materials via their account on the Pearson Realize website. Some assignments will also be completed and submitted via the website. A limited number of physical textbooks are available to bring home upon request.

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| **Grading Procedures**  |
| **Current Event Journals Homework – *20%*** | **Classroom Work & Participation – *10%***  |
| **Quizzes – *15%*****Writing & Projects – *25%*** | **Unit Tests – *30%*** |

**Course Website**

All the above information is available on the course website – **socialstudiesfitzgibbons.weebly.com**

Class lectures, PowerPoint notes, project information, and other helpful course resources are also available on the course website, which will be updated as the year progresses.

***Seek Out Extra Help If You Need It!***

I am available most days during study hall and afterschool. If you are struggling with anything at all (homework, classwork assignments, note-taking, content) come see me and we can work together to get you back on the pathway to success!

12th GRADE GOVERNMENT

**Student/Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement**

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

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the policies and expectations for 12th Grade Government, including the use of cell phones and procedures concerning course assignments.

In addition, I understand and acknowledge that as different topics, ideas, concepts, and current events are studied in class, controversial political issues may arise. Additionally, various forms of multimedia materials (film clips, images, news segments, etc.) are used to support and promote understanding, engagement, and inquiry. All resources are carefully considered before being used in the classroom for appropriateness and relevancy. Some resources depict material that may include discrimination, racial issues, genocide, contemporary social unrest, and other controversial political issues.

If you have any questions or concerns about course areas of study, expectations, grading, use of multimedia resources, or other matters, please contact me directly at the school or by email at jfitzgibbons@germantowncsd.org

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_