Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_

Part. In Gov’t 2015

**Participation in Government Syllabus**

**Please note!**

* This is a semester long class that you MUST pass (65 or better in both marking periods) in order to GRADUATE!!
* Mrs. Weklar has asthma and it is triggered by strong smells: smoke, body mists, perfumes, even hair spray – DO NOT spray anything in the classroom – this can have serious health consequences for her.

*I have read and understand what is printed in this box: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Parent initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Initials

Participation in government is about recognizing how to use your voice to influence and enact change. You should know that at the heart of my teaching philosophy is this: Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he will eat for life. I have three main goals in teaching you to fish.

1. To explore your role and responsibilities as citizens.
2. To incorporate creativity and technology.
3. To help you make active choices about what works best for you as a student.

**Your grade will be made up of the following:**

* Formative = 40%
* Summative = 50%
* Benchmark Assessment (SLO/Final) = 10%

**Formative Assessments:**

**Participation:** You will receive 10 daily participation points based on the following –

1. **Timeliness:** Were you on time? Please note that it is School District policy that if you are more than 20 minutes late to class you will be marked absent. An extra 5 minutes is allotted for travel since this class is at Abrookin. If you arrive after that you will be marked Tardy, 20 minutes or more and you will be Absent – unless you have appropriate documentation.

***2 pts*** *= on time* ***1 pt*** *= tardy* ***0****= unexcused absence*

1. **Preparation:** Did you bring what you needed for class today?

***2 pts****= All of it* ***1 pt****= most of it* ***0****= none*

1. **Active Participation:** Focused on the activity and completing your work; you’re supporting the discussion and adding to it. You’re not tearing people down for their opinions – calling names, etc. You’re not having side conversations, with other classmates or on your cell phone.

***2 pts****= Most of the time* ***1 pt****= some of the time* ***0****= none of the time*

1. **Work Completion:** Did you complete your work in class today?

***2 pts****= All of it* ***1 pt****= some of it* ***0****= none*

1. **Appropriate use of Technology:** Were you on websites that pertained to class work? Were you using your phone for class work, or did you spend your surfing Youtube, texting, checking out Facebook, etc?

***2 pts****= Most of the time* ***1 pt****= some of the time* ***0****= none of the time*

**Homework:** There will be homework outlines for each unit, you will use the textbook and complete the provided outline. The outlines can

**Learning Portfolio:** There will be classroom activities daily – however you will not hand all of them in for a grade, once every two weeks, you will be responsible for submitting 4 pieces of evidence of what you have learned accompanied by a short reflection.

**Quizzes and Do Nows**

**Summative Assessments**

**Unit Projects:** Each Unit will have a project attached to it.

**Unit Reflections:** Each unit will have a reflection that will consist of short answer questions that are based on the course material and your opinion.

**Tests:** There will be a test for each unit.

**Democracy, Rights & Liberties:**

**Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy (CCLS 12.G1)**

*Ch. 1.1; 1.3; 2.1; 2.5; 3.1; 3.2; 4.1; 4.2;*

1. The principles of American Democracy come from Enlightenment ideas. They include natural rights, the social contract, popular sovereignty and a representative government. They are outlined in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
2. The Constitution reflects the principles of American Democracy by including the rule of law, a limited government with separation of powers, and an amendment process to allow for flexibility and growth.

1. The government of the United States consists of three branches each with delegated roles and responsibilities - a separation of powers exists between the branches. There is a delineation of power between Federal and State governments, however, the power and responsibility of the federal government has expanded over time, there is an ongoing debate over this shift in power and responsibility.

* **Essential Questions:**
  + What are the principles of American Democracy?
  + How are the principles of American Democracy reflected in the Constitution and Bill of Rights?
  + What are the purposes and processes of American government and the law as outlined in the Constitution and bill of Rights?
* **Project:** States’ Rights and Federalism Research Paper

**Unit 2: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties (CCLS 12.G2)**

*Ch. 8; 10; 11*

1. Basic individual rights and freedoms of U.S. citizens are guaranteed by laws and the Constitutional amendments.
2. Constitutional protections have expanded to include ever growing numbers people and groups. Two fundamental values of the U.S. legal system are equality before the law and due process which allows U.S. citizens to pursue these rights. However, rights are not absolute, specific protection, rights and responsibilities vary with legal status, location and circumstance.
3. The Judicial System operates as an independent process to interpret and defend citizen’s freedoms and rights within a changing and evolving society. Freedom of the press allows for citizens to receive and interpret information so that the populace can make informed decisions. The extent to which these systems are impartial and balanced are a source of ongoing debate.

* **Essential Questions:**
  + What are the individual freedoms and rights of U.S. citizens as defined by the Constitution?
  + How would an individual determine whether or not their civil rights were violated and what is their legal recourse for pursuing a perceived violation?
  + The US has an independent Judicial system and freedom of the press, how are these designed to uphold and protect civil rights and liberties?
* **Project:** Know Your Rights Poster Campaign

**The Active & Engaged Citizen:**

**Unit 3.1: Media Literacy CCLS 12.G5d**

Active and engaged citizens must be effective media consumers in order to be able to find, monitor, and evaluate information on political issues. The media have different venues which have particular strengths and serve distinct and shared purposes. Knowing how to critically evaluate a media source is fundamental to being an informed citizen.

*Ch. 9.1; 9.2*

1. When critically evaluating a media source, an individual should consider the following five questions (media literacy kit medialit.org):
   1. Who created this message?
   2. What creative techniques are used to attract my attention?
   3. How might different people understand this message differently from me?
   4. What lifestyles, values and points of view are represented in, or omitted from, this message?
   5. Why is this message being sent?

* **Essential Questions:**
  + What should be considered when critically evaluating a media source for information?

**Unit 3.2: Public Policy CCLS 12.G5**

All levels of government—local, state, and federal—are involved in shaping public policy and responding to public policy issues, all of which influence our lives beyond what appears in the Constitution. Engaged citizens understand how to find, monitor, evaluate, and respond to information on public policy issues.

*Ch. 16; 4.3*

1. Public policy is influenced by special interest groups, mass media, lobbyists, PAC’s, and the needs and desires of the American populace.
2. The engaged citizen is informed by interpreting the media and can become involved by affiliation with political parties, PAC’s, voting, exercising their rights to freedom of speech and assembly and volunteering and donating money.

* **Essential Questions:**
  + How is public policy determined, shaped, implemented, amended, and enforced?
  + How can engaged citizens interpret and respond to information on public policy?
* **Project:** Public Policy Video

**Unit 4: Rights, Responsibilities & Duties of Citizenship CCLS 12.G4**

There are numerous avenues for engagement in the political process, from exercising the power of the vote, to affiliating with political parties, to engaging in other forms of civic participation. Citizens leverage both electoral and non-electoral means to participate in the political process. Active, engaged, and informed citizens are critical to the success of the United States representative democracy. United States citizens have certain rights, responsibilities, and duties, the fulfillment of which help to maintain the healthy functioning of the national, state, and local communities.

*Ch. 9.3; 9.4; 12*

1. An individuals’ civic participation includes voting, the ability to run for political office, party affiliation, paying your taxes, obeying the laws, serving on a jury, and registering for selective services.
2. The active, engaged and informed citizen is critical to the success of the U.S. representative democracy. They ensure the maintenance and accountability of a functioning national, state and local government.

* **Essential Questions:**
  + How is civic participation demonstrated by an individual?
  + Why is it important for American citizens to be involved in the American political process?
* **Project:** Presidential Election Website