

American Law and Government

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This course is a study of the origins, development, structure, and functions of American national government. Topics include the constitutional framework; federalism; the three branches of government, including the bureaucracy; civil rights and liberties; political participation and behavior; and policy formation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and participatory processes of the American political system. Basic concepts of state and local government and their relationships with the federal government are also examined. Students are expected to be prepared and participate *daily*.

Grading Scale

93-100% = A	90-92% = A-	87-89% = B+
83-86% = B	80-82% = B-	77-79% = C+
73-76% = C	70-72% = C-	67-69% = D+
63-66% = D	60-62% = D-	59% and below = F

Grades will be based off assignments, tests, and participation. Grades will be assigned by percentage of points earned out of those possible.

Citizenship

Citizenship grades are based on participation, attendance, and behavior. Students begin each term with an “H” for Honors, with the opportunity to gain points by going above and beyond, or lose points by not meeting the expectations of the class.

Supplies (needed every day)

- A one-inch binder for this class
- Pen or pencil
- A highlighter
- School Planner
- College ruled lined paper
- Assignments/homework

Expectations

1. Arrive on time and be on task when bell rings
2. Come prepared with assignments and supplies
3. Be respectful of people and property
4. Participate in all activities and discussions
5. Follow directions

Earning Points

- Students can expect to have homework each class. These assignments must be completed by the beginning of the next class session for full credit. Turning in assignments on time will have the greatest impact on a grade.
- Many assignments, along with some tests, will be passed to another student in the class to grade. The rest will be graded by the teacher. I will also grade written assignments and exams.

Assignments

- I will try to give students as much time as possible for work in class. However, as a high school level course, daily homework should be expected.
- Larger projects may require more outside work.
- If a student is absent, it is *their* responsibility to get any missed work and make arrangements to fulfill requirements.
- For excused absences, students have one week from the day they return to class to turn in assignments. To view what students missed look on the class website or the log in the classroom.
- Assignments from unexcused absences may not be made up.
- Students are expected to do the required reading and assignments prior to class in order to contribute to class discussions.

Extra Credit

- Extra credit assignments will be given upon student request. Students may not have any missing work to receive extra credit. Extra credit assignments will be added to grades at the end of the term if there are no other missing assignments.

Turning in Assignments

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified.
- ***If students turn in their work on time, they will be able to re-do the assignment for additional credit up until the unit test.**
- **Late work is accepted with a 10% deduction per class period it is late, up to 50%. Assignments turned in late will not have the option to re-do for additional credit.**
- **Late assignments will not be accepted after the unit test.**
- Assignments turned in early are welcome!
- Assignments will be returned when graded.
- Re-done assignments must be turned in *with* the original assignment.

History Lab: Thurs, 3-4 pm

Individual help and retesting is available Thursday 3-4 pm. Additional help is available by appointment.

Contact

As the year progresses, you will receive information on your student's progress, behavior, and class work to help keep you informed. I will be delighted to answer any questions or concerns that may arise. Grades will be updated every Friday. To contact me or find information about the class:

- Call the school and leave a message.
- The most effective way to contact me is by e-mail at: anay@north-staracademy.com.
- Check the class website.

Parent Involvement

If you would like to be involved in our class in any way, please let me know! We can always use help in the classroom. If you are willing to help, please check the line on the next page.

iCivics.org

Throughout the semester the students will be using the website icivics.org. This is a website created for students and teachers as a place to learn about the United States government. Students will also be expected to behave appropriately when online.

Writing

We will write weekly in class. The subject and type of writing will vary. When we research a topic, I expect the student to read, understand the information they have uncovered, and then write in their OWN words.

Classroom Policies

- Electronics are not allowed, including but not limited to: cell phones, ipods, mp3 players, Nintendo Switch, Gameboy, etc, unless prior teacher approval is given. If students are found with them, I reserve the right take them for the rest of the day. Students may retrieve them at the office after school.
- If there is an emergency, parents can contact their students through the main office.
- Cheating will result in a failing grade on the assignment or test.
- No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the classroom, with the exception of a water bottle.
- We will do a lot of group work and discussion, and student cooperation is mandatory. If students do not act appropriately, I reserve the right to give applicable discipline, such as verbal warning, loss of points, extra homework, call home, or after school detention. Inappropriate behavior will also result in citizenship grade reduction.

I follow all school policies including attendance, dress code, and sexual harassment.

For further details, please see the school policies page on the school website.

Class Website

naysnews.weebly.com

This website is intended as a place where students and parents can see assignments, homework, and project details, as well as due dates. To view of brief summary of what we covered in a class period look at the class agenda, which can be found from the class website. A digital copy of all assignments will be uploaded onto the website. The website will be updated weekly, or if changes to due dates, etc., occur.

Please visit this website often to keep up on what is going on in class!

Videos

To support our curriculum, videos might be shown in part or in entirety. I feel that videos can be an important tool in learning when used properly. I require that each student participate in a learning activity associated with the videos as they are shown, such as: taking notes, completing a video guide, taking a quiz on the video's information, writing a response to the video, critiquing the video.

End Statements

Through the implementation of the School-wide Enrichment Model (SEM), students will demonstrate:

- **Good Citizenship**
- **Academic Achievement**
- **Critical Thinking**

School Improvement Goal

“I will discover my unique abilities to strengthen myself and help others.” In this class we will be incorporating a variety of activities in an effort to help students find these abilities.

By signing you agree to the following:

Student:

- I have read the government disclosure document for Ms. Nay’s government class and understand what is required of me in order to do well in this class.
- I agree to follow the classroom rules.

Print Student Name	Student Signature	Date
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Parent:

- I have read the government disclosure document for Ms. Nay’s government class and understand the classroom policies and expectations.

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Signature	Date
Print name		