

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Political Science/American National Government

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

## Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies

Mr. Giancaspro – Room 145

[egiancaspro@yonkerspublicschool.org](mailto:egiancaspro@yonkerspublicschool.org)

(914) 376 – 8118

After-School Availability – Days and times are posted in the front of the classroom

### **Introduction**

Political Science/Macroeconomics is a fourth credit mandatory for graduation Social Studies course. This course is one semester for a total of two marking periods (Sept – Jan). The first semester focuses on *Political Science/American National Government College Link (SUNY Farmingdale)*. The primary purpose of the “participation in government” is to facilitate and encourage the development of a civic-minded individual capable of effectively fulfilling the “office of the citizen”, a fundamental principle of democracy and right guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon the completion of this course you should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of how public policy is formed, implemented, and evaluated at all levels of government in a democratic society.
- Knowledge of how citizens can directly or indirectly interact with the public policy process.

### **Your Objective**

Upon the completion of this course you should be individuals:

- Who have characteristics that define a citizen – committed, informed, skillful, and active.
- Who possess in various degrees the skills and qualities associated with civic mindedness, civic intelligence, civic literacy, and civic enterprise.

### **Grading**

- Class Participation 20%
- Tests & Projects 20%
- Quizzes 20%
- Classwork 20%
- Homework 20%

### **Materials Needed**

You need:

- A loose-leaf binder OR a notebook with perforated edge both divided into separate subject sections.
- A **blue ink** pen. All assignment that are submitted must be completed in **blue ink**.
- A pencil for tests and quizzes that are completed on a Scan-Tron form.

**Political Science/American National Government – College Link (SUNY Farmingdale)**  
**Course Outline**

The following is a basic outline covering topics that will be studied during this course. Projects, Tests/Quizzes, Homework, and primary and secondary source readings will be assigned accordingly.

***Overview***

- Six Basic Principles
- Basic Principles of Democracy

***Political Policies***

- The Roles Political Parties Play in American Democracy
- The Two Party System and Minor Parties
- Political Parties Organization
- Selection of Candidates for Office

***Elections and Voting***

- Voters and Voter behavior
- The Right To Vote
- Voter Qualifications
- Suffrage & Civil Rights
- Voter Behavior
- The Nominating and Election Process
- Elections
- Financing Election Campaigns – Interest Groups
- Interest groups Influence on Public Policy
- The Nature of Interest Groups
- Types of Interest Groups
- Interest Groups at Work

**The Constitution**

- The Constitution As A Living Document
- Formally Amending the Constitution and How Amendments Have Broadened the Constitution
- Informal Amendments Have Broadened the Constitution

**The Legislative Branch**

- Congress

**The Executive Branch**

- The Presidency

**The Judicial Branch**

- The Federal Court System

**Participating in State and Local Government**

- Organization of State Government and State Constitution
- The State Legislation
- Local Government and Finance
- Financing State and Local Government

Students are expected to follow election races on local, state, and national levels by reading online news and/or watching television news coverage. Student participation in class discussions about current political events will help broaden the understanding of how their participation in government is vital to American democracy.

**Political Science/American National Government – College Link (SUNY Farmingdale)**  
**Requirements for Successful Course Completion**

1. Your attendance in class is expected every day. Remember the school rule of 24 absences. Lateness is frowned upon. Three late arrivals will result in one grade point being subtracted from your quarter average.
2. There will be several full period tests to be given in the term. A passing final grade would require that you have a passing average on your tests. Tests and Quizzes will be announced in advance.
3. Each student will be required to submit a Viewpoint Essay on a current issue in American Democracy. A passing grade will require that you have a passing average on these essays. All essays must be submitted on their due date. An essay that is submitted late will lose 10 points for each date that it is late. All essays will be discussed in class and due dates will be announced 5 days in advance.  
**Rubric to follow.**
4. Current Events on international and national news will be assigned on a weekly basis. All current event items must be submitted on their due date. A current event submitted late will lose 20 points.  
**Rubric and template to follow.**
5. Capstone Project a New York State Department of Education requirement for graduation will be developed and presented in class. Project topics are your or your group's choice but must focus on a public policy issue.
6. Class Participation is mandatory. Preparedness and involvement in class activities will be a deciding factor, up or down, of a student's grade.
7. Any difficulties that you may have in the course or problems that arise should be discussed with the teacher. Alternate arrangements can be made to meet unusual situations.
8. Assignments such as homework and projects are not limited to those activities submitted above. All homework assignments are due the next day, unless specifically given more time. Assignments submitted late will lose points.