CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Every member of this class will have an opportunity to learn in an atmosphere which is both comfortable and conducive to classroom success.

Every member of this class will have the right to ask questions and to express opinions as they apply to the course materials.

To these ends, all class members shall conduct themselves in a civil and reasonable manner. Every member of this class has a responsibility to come to class prepared and on time.

Goals:
The major goal of this course is to raise the political awareness of each student and to make each one an active and eager participant in the political process. To that end, this course will introduce students to the structure and function of the American political system and to the major influences that bear on governmental decision making. Topics include political organizations, the successes and failures of the Constitution, the legislative process, the evolution of the presidency, and the impact of the courts and judicial review. All of these topics will be examined within the context of the three branches of government as they check and balance one another.

Grades:
20% Projects – Students are expected to complete two projects per quarter. Projects are designed to support and enrich text and discussion material. Projects are assigned in advance and are expected to be physically in class on the day (during the appropriate period) that they are due. Late project (except where noted) will be penalized 20% of the possible points per day.

20% Reactions – Reactions are weekly current events assignments. As they involve current events reported in Newsweek magazine, there is no purpose in getting the information when it is no longer current. As a result, article will be assigned late each week; reaction to one of the assigned articles will be due the following Monday (or the first day of school each week) and NO LATE REACTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED (students absent on Monday may turn reactions in on their first day back at school). To accommodate emergencies, students are allowed one drop each interim (two for the quarter). The assigned articles will always include the cover article; students who, for any reason, are not in class when the magazines are handed out may access Newsweek on-line and use the “cover article” or purchase a news stand copy to complete their reaction.

60% Tests – Students should expect to be tested on every chapter formally covered in this course. The test material will be based on the text book, lecture notes and class discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to download the topic outlines which are provided on-line to facilitate reading and studying for the tests.

If you have questions about these or any classroom policies please contact me at:

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