

The Election Process for Middle School Students

Grades: 5th – 8th
Day of Week: Tuesday
Time of Class: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm ET
Length of Class: 10-weeks
Semester: Fall

Class Dates:

Fall

Week 1: September 15

Week 2: September 22

No Classes: September 28 - October 9 (Yom Kippur and Sukkot)

Week 3: October 13

Week 4: October 20

Week 5: October 27

Week 6: November 3

Week 7: November 10

Week 8: November 17

No Classes: November 23 – Thanksgiving Week

Week 9: December 1

Week 10: December 8

Make Up Week: December 15

Instructor's Name: Jonathan Meola
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Description of Class:

Voting in elections is a cornerstone of American democracy. This is among the most fundamental and important rights of every American citizen. As we head into the homestretch of the 2020 Presidential campaign, this class will help explain the history of the election process in the United States since its inception, using both the current race to the White House and historical examples of past Presidential elections to educate the learner on this truly revolutionary idea - granting the power to govern not by right or heredity, but by the outcome of the ballot box.

Class Approach:

This class is a combination of lecture, classroom discussion, and illustrative video.

Goals:

For young learners to understand the basics of the electoral process, how and why it works (even when we may think it doesn't), and why it is a right and responsibility they will need to take seriously when they reach adulthood.

Textbook:

None; all materials will be supplied by the instructor as part of the course.

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Computer
- Internet Access
 - At times, instructor will share an article or video to be viewed in preparation for class from age-appropriate sources
- Notebook
- Microphone (internal computer / smartphone is absolutely fine)
- Camera (smartphone camera is absolutely fine)

Requirements:

- Students will be expected to participate and interact with the instructor and their peers in class. Students will be required to complete assignments in a timely manner.
- Students need to respect each other.
- Students will complete and present their class project as assigned by the instructor.

Weekly Homework:

Every week there will be a combination of assignments including selected readings, viewing of video clips, and answering assigned questions from the instructor. You can expect about 1 - 2 hours of homework weekly.

Homework Policy:

Homework will be due prior to class for students to receive full credit unless arrangements have been made in advance. Students will receive partial credit for homework submitted within two class periods of due date. No credit will be given for homework turned in after two consecutive weeks/sessions. Additionally, any outstanding homework needs to be turned in prior to any unit test, even if that is sooner than the two weeks.

Additional Policies:

- Honesty.
- Integrity.
- Respect.
- Hard work.
- Enough said?

Evaluation:

- Class Participation 33.3%
- Class Presentation 33.3%
- Class Quizzes 33.3%

Grading Scale:

- 100-90: A
- 89-80: B
- 79-70:C
- 69-60: D
- 59 and below - No effort: F

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Fall 2020

Week	Topic
Week 1	INTRODUCTION; THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING
Week 2	THE EVOLUTION OF THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM
Week 3	THIRD PARTIES IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS
Week 4	WHY RUN? LAUNCHING (AND FUNDING) A MODERN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY
Week 5	GENERATING 'BUZZ': DEBATES, POLLS, & THE MEDIA
Week 6	GAINING TRACTION: WINNING CAUCUSES & PRIMARIES
Week 7	WINNING THE NOMINATION: DELEGATES & CONVENTION
Week 8	TOE-TO-TOE WITH YOUR OPPONENT: DEBATES
Week 9	GENERAL ELECTION; ELECTORAL COLLEGE
Week 10	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS; NOW WHAT? THE PRESIDENT-ELECT GETS READY