**CORNWALL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**POLICIES AND GUIDELINES  
PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT- GRADE 12**

**MRS. SPENCER**

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The following is an outline of some of the important information you will need for this school year. Please read this sheet carefully and keep it in your folder. I encourage you to share this information with your parents. This information will also be available all semester under materials in our Google Classroom.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: A one semester course emphasizing the interaction between citizens and government at all levels: local, state and federal. This course will encourage you to gain a greater understanding of our democratic process. The course will focus on the examination of policy issues local, state and federal governments currently promote, try to avoid, or continuously struggle with. This course aims to provide students with opportunities to become engaged in the political process by acquiring the knowledge and practicing the skills necessary for active citizenship. Participation in government and in our communities is fundamental to the success of American democracy.

**CLASS PREPARATION**: Be on time to class. I expect that students will have a positive attitude, be willing to learn, ask questions and participate in class discussions. Phones will be off and away during class. Any phone issues will immediately be addressed by the teacher and administration. Student attendance is imperative for student success. In order to properly learn and retain information students need to be in class and participating in a lesson. Staying home and submitting assignments via Google Classroom is not a substitute for instruction from a teacher. NYS has a seat time requirement for students to earn credit. In addition to attendance it is imperative that students are on time for school. Students that come into class late

disrupt the learning that is taking place and are missing seat time. Students that develop habits of lateness will be required to meet with school support staff and their parents/guardians to create a plan of action to arrive at school on time. Students that are late will be subject to discipline.

**SUPPLIES**: All students are required to bring a folder with paper to class each day. I require each student to have their school-issued charged chromebook with them daily. Chromebooks will be used daily along with Google classroom so please be prepared. Headphones with a plug or the ability to connect to your chromebook wirelessly will also be needed. Along with your chromebook charger.

**GRADING:** There are several factors that are used to compute your average. Included are:

Test Scores- 50% (Projects/Essays-Always worth at least one test grade)

Quiz Scores- 20%

Homework/Classroom/Remote work- 30%

**TESTS-QUIZZES**: Chapter test will be announced. Quizzes may or may not be announced.

**ASSIGNMENTS**: Must be neat, legible and on time. Any assignment handed in one day late (which has been done correctly) will gain a grade of 50%. Assignments turned in more than one day late will result in a zero.It is your responsibility to get any materials or assignments after an absence and to hand in that work for a grade. If a student is absent, it is also their responsibility to check the Google classroom for class materials, class notes and any assignments that need to be completed. Students should be in contact with me via email with any questions or issues.

**REQUIREMENTS**: In addition to all other assignments, you will be required to submit a departmental final project at the end of the semester. The Civil Action Capstone Project will be worked on during the duration of the course and will be submitted at the end of the semester for a grade. The project will be worth 10% of your overall course grade.

**CAPSTONE PROJECT:** Participation in government and in our communities is fundamental to the success of American democracy. Students will complete the Civic Readiness Capstone project to demonstrate their readiness to make a positive difference in the public life of their communities through the applied combination of civic knowledge, skills and actions, mindset, and experiences. Through this project, students will apply knowledge and skills they have learned through their Social Studies education, as well as other subject areas.

In this Civic Readiness Capstone project, students will:

* Identify a civic issue (problem) facing them, their school, or their community.
* Analyze a civic issue (problem), evaluate alternative solutions, design and/or execute a solution for this problem.
* Take informed action to address the civic issue.
* Reflect on what they have learned about their school or community from the Capstone project.
* Make a presentation about their Civic Readiness Capstone project
* <http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/civic-readiness-capstone-project>

**COURSE GRADE OUTLINE**

Marking Period 1: 45%

Marking Period 2: 45%

Civic Action Capstone Project: 10%

**FINAL NOTES**: Arrangements can be made anytime for additional help. I encourage you and your parents to contact me if you have any problems or concerns about this course. Discussion topics will undoubtedly produce a wide variety of opinions. You are free to express your opinion, but you must always be respectful of others. During class we will be watching films on controversial topics, some of which are very graphic. If at any time you feel uncomfortable viewing a film, you will be provided with an alternate assignment at a different location. Please let me know.