

12th Grade Humanities
Ms. Joy Parnakian, B.S.
2014-2015

*As citizens, we all have an obligation to intervene and become involved - it's
the citizen who changes things.*

-Jose Saramago

Goals

To develop an understanding of the foundations of our federal government and analyze the way the federal, state, and local government impacts our lives. Students will analyze, evaluate, discuss, and compare primary source documents and English literature in order to gain a deeper understanding of our governmental structure.

Course Description

The 12th Grade Humanities class is designed to cover the Language Arts standards in the content of government and economics. While studying government and economics, students will learn about the foundations of American democracy, the structure of the federal, state, and local governments. Students also learn the significant decisions that have been made by our federal courts and how those decisions affect Americans today. They continue to learn about the role of political parties in American government and the structure of the American legal system. The focus of the course shifts toward understanding key concepts in the U.S. economic system. Students learn why economic decisions are made, as well as, how economic decisions are made. The end result is students will complete the course with the full knowledge of the inner workings of the American government and economic system, leading them to become productive American citizens with the education to make effective decisions concerning their own future.

Standards:

Because the Humanities class is essentially a combined English and Social Studies class, the standards taught are also a combination of both Language Arts and Social Studies. The impossibility of teaching all standards in both subjects renders the necessity of identifying the most critical areas and ensuring that those are taught first. Every attempt to teach as many standards as possible are made. The approach to the class is that it is first and foremost a Language Arts class, but is taught through the landscape of American Government and Economics. Standards covered are:

Arizona State Standards for Social Studies

S3:C1:PO:1-4, S3:C2:PO: 1-9, S3:C3:PO 1-5, S3:C4:PO 1-5

Common Core Standards English Language Arts

All Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening Common Core Standards will be covered by the end of Semester 2.

Prerequisite:

11th Grade Humanities

Materials Needed:

- ☀ 1 composition book per semester
- ☀ 1 2" 3-ring binder
- ☀ 6 tab dividers
- ☀ 1 single-subject spiral notebook per semester
- ☀ Pens, pencils, and eraser
- ☀ Loose notebook paper
- ☀ Pouch to hold writing utensils
- ☀ Independent Reading Book
- ☀ Library card with no fines
- ☀ Computer and Internet access
- ☀ School appropriate email address
- ☀ Printer with ink
- ☀ Online storage for documents

Methods and Procedures

This unit involves the exploration of complex concepts and potentially controversial topics. In order to make the necessary connections and gain understanding, every student is expected to participate in small group and whole class discussions. If given a preparation assignment for these, every student is expected to be prepared and participate. Each student will be enhancing their writing skills through journaling/jumpstarts, vocabulary building assignments, current event assignments, and engaging in writing conferences with the teacher. The students will enhance their reading skills through exposure to a variety of types of texts, reading aloud during class, and following along with audio recordings. Students will also be given graphic organizers and supplemental handouts to help better understand concepts/lessons. For each topic covered, there will be at least one major assignment (essay, presentation, debate, etc.), one quiz and one test. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, in size 12 font.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

The following is a list of rules that must be followed in the classroom. The teacher will keep track of adherence to the class rules. Participation is graded in part on adherence to these rules:

1. Follow all directions.
2. Be on time and in your seat when class begins.
3. Be prepared for class and have all required materials with you.
4. Do not eat or drink (except water) in class. No gum chewing in class.
5. Stay in your seat during class unless you have permission to be out of your seat.
6. Raise your hand to speak your mind or ask questions. Do not call out.
7. Be respectful of those around you. They have a right to learn without disruptions.
8. Be positive and encouraging to your classmates. No put downs of any kind are tolerated.

Leaving the Classroom

Students may not leave the classroom during the first and last 10 minutes of the period. Students will be given three coupons per quarter to use at their discretion if they need to use the restroom, go to the office, or take care of an unforeseen emergency. The use of the coupon will allow them three opportunities per quarter to leave class with a pass. After using those three opportunities, no more will be given (unless there is a medical reason with a doctor's note). However, if the coupons are not used, they will convert into extra credit points at the end of the quarter.

Electronics/Cell Phones

All cell phones, MP3 players, video games or other electronic devices must be turned OFF and put out of sight into a bag or backpack. Students may check messages during lunch or between classes, but **NOT DURING CLASS**. In the case of an emergency (accident, illness, death, etc.), parents should call the school directly or come to the school to pick up their child. **If a student uses a cell phone or other electronic device in class, I will take it away, give it to administration, and detention will be given. If a cell phone is taken away more than once, a student may be banned from bringing their cell phone to school. (See Metro's Cell Phone Policy)**

Homework and Exam Expectations

In general, as 12th graders, students are asked to take responsibility for their own learning and to be accountable for their active participation in their education. It will be imperative for you to take responsibility for your own studying and preparation for class and exams. Independent preparation, in addition to schoolwork will be necessary for success. All students are required to use, have, and maintain their Metro Planner to help with organization and preparedness.

Homework is expected to be completed on time, printed, and turned in on the due date.

If a student has an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher or a peer for missed notes and/or assignments and to take tests. The student will have one day upon returning to

complete the assignment(s) or take a test. You must check Ms. Parnakian's webpage before asking her what was missed.

If a student has an unexcused absence, no make-up work will be accepted.

If a student does not have their homework completed on time, they will automatically receive lunch detention and will continue serving it until the assignment is complete. Late homework assignments must be completed in lunch detention, but will receive less credit. Homework assignments turned in late, but by the end of the day the assignment was due receive 5% deduction. Every late assignment will receive 10% reduction per calendar day.

If a student is absent on the day of a test, the student must arrange a make-up date with me, and the test must be re-taken within one week of the absence or an automatic 0 will be issued.

NO re-takes will be granted for failure of an exam.

Major Assignments

Jumpstarts: At the beginning of every class period, each student is expected to arrive on time, get out their Jumpstart notebook and complete the prompt for the day. Each student that is on time and on task will receive a stamp. Each stamp is worth 5 points. Jumpstarts can be made up for excused absences only.

Presentations and Speeches: Every student will be required to give a formal speech or presentation during the year along with smaller, informal presentations. It is expected that the student will dress and speak appropriately during the presentation and will reference their notes minimally.

Writing Assignments: Every piece of writing you turn in (formal and informal) must use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. It must be typed (double spaced, 12 point font) unless otherwise specified. Be prepared to turn in some assignments electronically. If your handwriting is illegible, the teacher may require you to type all assignments.

Homework Calendar/Planner: Every student will have a homework calendar that will be provided. Each student is required to have it with them daily. At the end of class we will write down the assignment together. *If I do not collect the homework*, you will receive a stamp on your calendar for credit. Most stamped assignments will be graded on a completion basis. You will only receive a stamp if the entire assignment is complete. If you miss a stamp, it is your responsibility to see me. This calendar will be collected on a monthly basis, unless otherwise specified. Homework is expected to be completed on time and turned in on the due date.

Grades

<u>Homework</u> Regular homework assignments & HW calendar *Honors HW Grade: Honors Assignments 20% Regular HW Assignments 20%	40%
<u>Participation</u> Following all classroom rules & attendance 5% Jumpstarts 5%	10%
<u>Writing & Projects</u>	30%
<u>Tests, Quizzes, & Presentations</u>	20%

Each semester grade is calculated as follows: The first quarter is worth 40%, the second quarter is worth 40%, and the final exam is worth 20%. There are two semesters in the school year. For example, if a student earns 90% the first quarter, 80% for the second quarter, and then receives 95% on the final exam, the semester grade is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Quarter One} \quad \text{Quarter Two} \quad \text{Final Exam} \\ (90\% \times 0.4) + (80\% \times 0.4) + (95\% \times 0.2) = 87\% \text{ for semester one} \end{array}$$

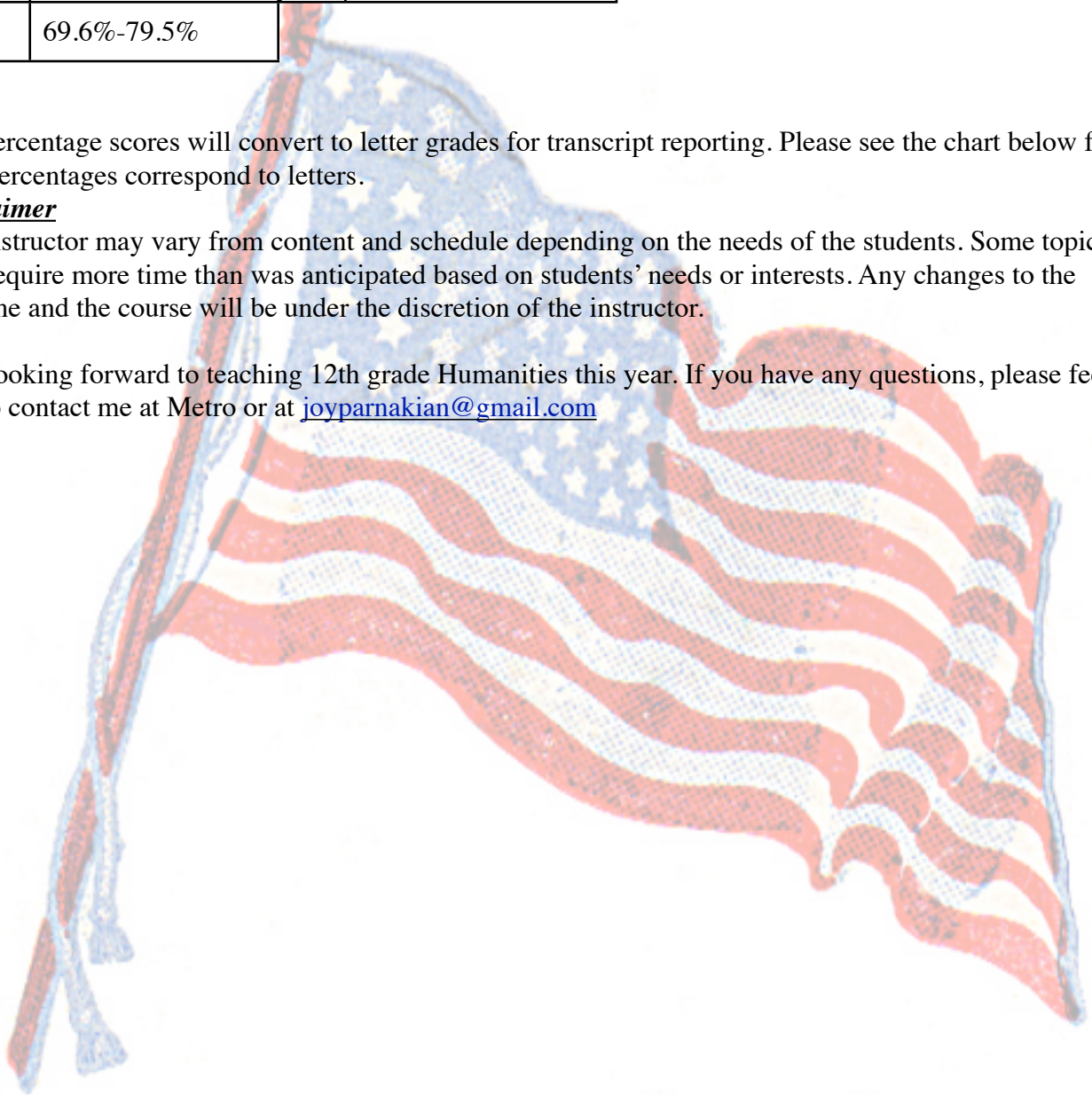
A	89.6%-100%	D	59.6%-69.5%
B	79.6%-89.5%	F	59.5% and below
C	69.6%-79.5%		

The percentage scores will convert to letter grades for transcript reporting. Please see the chart below for how percentages correspond to letters.

Disclaimer

The instructor may vary from content and schedule depending on the needs of the students. Some topics may require more time than was anticipated based on students' needs or interests. Any changes to the timeline and the course will be under the discretion of the instructor.

I am looking forward to teaching 12th grade Humanities this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Metro or at joyparnakian@gmail.com



Syllabus & Policy Contract Agreement
Access syllabus through Ms. Parnakian's Metro Webpage

*Please review this syllabus with your Parent/Guardian.
You must return this contract to Ms. Parnakian by _____*

I have read the course syllabus and I understand my responsibilities. In addition to the course syllabus, I have also read and agree to follow Metro's Universal Classroom Policies which are in the student handbook and posted online. I understand that I must have all required materials for my class by _____ . I understand that I will have a quiz over the syllabus on _____ .

Student name (Printed)

Student signature

I have read the course syllabus and I understand my child's responsibilities. I have also read and agree to follow Metro's Universal Policies.

Parent/Guardian name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian signature

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____