

**Kenyon Academic Partnership**  
**Liberal Democracy in America**  
**2014-2015 Syllabus**  
**Hilliard Bradley High School**  
**Instructor: Mr. Clingman**

**Course Description:** The goal of this course is to increase your understanding of the American political system and the historical foundations of this system. This course will meet the requirements set forth by Kenyon College to allow students to obtain credit for Kenyon's 200 level political science course per the KAP program. Along with this, the course will also discuss the United States Government system including the Constitution, Federalism, the three branches, media, political parties, interest groups, and the bureaucracy

**Expectations:**

1. You should purchase a notebook for this class. In this notebook you should keep all assignments and papers handed out for this class. Included in this are class notes, activities, in-class writings, and notes over your readings.
2. Be prepared for class, each day you should bring to class: notebook, textbook, paper, writing utensil, and homework if assigned. (see homework policy). Habitual un-preparedness will result in a lowering of your participation grade.
3. Reading for this class will be very important in order to hold discussions over the material. It is imperative that you keep up on your reading. Quizzes may be given at any time over the readings and may be unannounced. If you take notes on what you read and there is a pop quiz, I may let you use those notes as you take the quiz.
4. Grades will consist of tests, quizzes, homework, projects, papers and class participation.
  - There will be two term papers (one each semester) as well as a midterm and final exam.
  - A notebook will be used as a reading journal. In this notebook you will keep your notes over the texts that are assigned as well as a personal journal reflection entry over individual reading assignment. These reflections may also come from other readings handed out in class. The journal will be collected every few weeks for a grade.
  - As this is a college level course there will be fewer short term assignments/projects, but long term assignments so you will need to budget your time wisely and keep up with the readings as there will be fewer graded assignments per term.

**Absence Policy:** If you are absent it is your responsibility to get the information that you missed and make up any work. I will not seek you out; you must ask me or another student. You have as many days to make up the work as your excused absence; this includes tests and quizzes. It is your responsibility to schedule a make up time. Class notes should be obtained from another student. If the absence is unexcused, you may not complete the missing work for a grade – this includes tests and quizzes.

**Homework Policy:** No late work will be accepted for a grade. Homework is collected at the beginning of the period, once it has been collected, anything turned in after this will be for zero credit (see extra credit policy). This includes any homework turned in late due to unexcused tardiness.

**Extra Credit Policy:** There are minimal opportunities for extra credit. Extra credit will also only be available to students who have turned in all assignments. If you have not turned in all of your assignments, in order to become eligible for extra credit you must first make up the missing work for no credit.

Each Friday that there is school you may bring in one current event, political cartoon, or editorial that relates to government or foreign affairs (in other words – no sports or weather articles). If you bring one in and **present it to the class on Friday** you will receive 2 points extra credit.

**Texts for this course are:**

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay. *The Federalist Papers*.

Alexis de Toqueville. *Democracy in America*. Vol. I

David Mayhew. *Congress the Electoral Connection*. New haven, CT: Yale, 1974

Richard Neustadt. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. New York Free Press, 1991.

Sabato, Larry J. *The Year of Obama*

John Agresto. *The Supreme Court and Constitutional Democracy*.

Harrison Harris and Deardorff. *America Democracy Now*. 3rd ed.

**Unit Assignments**

**These are the reading assignments for the text and the books assigned for the course – there will be other assignments that will be handed out in class. These will be essays, court cases and debates that will correlate to the topics / discussions of the class.**

Unit 1 – Democracy Foundations

Text: Chapters 1

Tocqueville: Intro, Part 1 Chapters 2-4 Part 2 chapters 6,7,8,9

Unit 1– The Constitution

Text: Chapter 2

Tocqueville: Part 1 chapter 8

Federalist Papers: 1-3, 6, 8-10, 14, 23, 25, 27, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 47-49, 51, 54, 58, 63, 64, 70, 73

Unit I – Federalism

Text: Chapter 3

Tocqueville: 5, 10-12

Federalist Papers: 15-17

Unit III – Political Socialization, Public Opinion

Text: Chapter 6

Tocqueville Part 2 chapters 1-5

The Year of Obama: Chapters 2, 4, 5

Unit III – Participation, Interest Groups and Political Parties and

Text: Chapters 7, 8

The Year of Obama: Chapters 1, 3, 10

Unit III – Elections, Campaigns, Voting and the Media

Text: Chapter 9, and 10

The Year of Obama: Chapters, 6, 7, 8, 9

**Federalist Paper Test and de Tocqueville Paper due date TBA**

**Mid-Term Exams – 12/18-20/2014 - See school exam schedule**

**Term Paper Due: with semester exam**

Unit IV – Congress

Text: Chapter 12

Federalist Papers: 35, 52, 53, 62, and 63

Mayhew: all

Unit IV – The Presidency and the Bureaucracy

Text: Chapters 13 and 14

Federalist Papers: 70-72

Neustadt: Preface, Part I pgs. 3-55, 68-99, 122-144, and 150-163

Part II pgs. 167-169, 179-229, 269-294, and 308-318

Unit IV – The Supreme Court, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Text: Chapters 15, 4, and 5

Agresto: pgs. 9-40, 51-55, and 84-107

Unit 10 – Policy

Text: 16-18

Current Issues: One discussion topic will be assigned for each policy area of domestic, economic and international affairs – these will be based on current events.