

Mr. Natale  
Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics

**Grading Policy**

Tests and Projects	65 %
Homework	20 %
Quizzes	5%
Participation	10%
(See separate "participation" grade policy.)	

**Class Rules**

- You must have a medium sized loose-leaf binder with sufficient paper
- You must have a pen and pencil at all times
- Unexcused absences or tardiness will adversely affect your grade. (See *Mr. Natale's Class Participation Grade Policy*.)
- You may not leave your seat for any reason during class time without my stated permission
- No food in the classroom. You may bring in any beverages that would withstand the scrutiny of the Temperance Society, provided it is contained in a closed plastic or metal container.
- Discourse must remain civil at all times however heartfelt your differences may be.
- Raise your hand if you wish to speak and please don't talk out of turn or over someone else.

The AP Government & Politics Exam is the first of all exams and is given on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 AM. This means that we have to get through the curriculum before the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period in order to properly review for the exam. As a result we will move along rather quickly. If you don't stay on top of your work in this class you will quickly fall behind.

This class is a college level course dealing with sophisticated curriculum that will be reflected in our class discussion as well as in your written work and testing. In addition to absorbing and recalling complex material from the textbook, you will also have to keep abreast of the many political developments pertaining to our course through the news media in all its forms. You cannot take this class lightly if you expect to do well.



## Mr. Natale Class Participation Grade Policy

- It is very important that students attend class and participate constructively while in attendance.
- Your participation grade counts **10% toward each quarter's average.**
- There are *two parts of your participation grade.*
  1. **Attendance\*: 50%**
  2. **Preparedness/Input: 50%**
- All students begin each quarter with a 100 for both parts of their participation grade. This is my gift. Take advantage of this high grade by avoiding point deductions.

### Part 1/Attendance:

Points are deducted from the initial 100 as follows:

**unexcused tardy\*** (see clarification below) = -5

**unexcused absence\*** (see clarification below) = -10

**Clarification on tardiness:** An unexcused tardy is when you come in after the bell and do not have a legally acceptable reason for your lateness. *If you have signed in late in the office but do not have an accepted excuse as per NY State Ed. Law, you are still marked tardy and will have 5 points deducted.* If you are talking with another teacher *for a few minutes* before class and have a pass from him or her, you will not be penalized; however, *do not spend an entire class period with another teacher when you know you should be in my class.*

**Clarification on absences:** If you are not in class and have a legally acceptable reason, as per NY State Ed. Law, for being out of my class, you are not considered cutting. If, however, you are absent for another reason, you are considered cutting and will have *10 points* deducted from your participation grade. *Please speak to me ahead of time in you have a particular need to be out of class* (visit in guidance with college representative, music lesson, planning a school sponsored event with another teacher, preparing for a bake sale, etc.). I will do my best to be reasonable and accommodate reasonable requests whenever possible.

***The following information is from the student handbook and explains New York State Education Law, as well as the school's policy:***

Attendance must be recorded for every student who is in the school building each day while school is in session. Teachers record attendance every period of the day.

The administration and teachers expect students to be in school for the entire day. Students who come to school late and/or miss more than four periods will be excluded from after school activities on that day.

In order to be marked present, you must be in class.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school in the event of a student's absence. **Parents are requested to call the office at 367-6900 between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. on the day of the absence. A note explaining the cause of absence is required on the day the student returns to school—even if a phone call has already been made.** Parents, if possible, please advise the school by telephone as to the reason for your child's absence.



The State Education Law recognizes only the following as **legal** reasons for school absence:

1. sickness
2. death in family
3. religious observance
4. quarantine
5. required court appearance
6. attendance at organized clinic
7. school authorized activity
8. remedial health treatment
9. impassable roads

\*At the end of each quarter, I will calculate each student's attendance grade **based on the information listed in eSchoolData**, not on my personal feelings (or the student's) regarding whether or not particular absences/tardies should be excused. If a student has absences listed in eSchoolData for which no note explaining one of the above, legally acceptable reasons, has been submitted to the attendance secretary, these absences are considered unexcused and are marked as such. The same goes for tardiness. Therefore, when a student is legally (according to NY State Law) absent/tardy, a note indicating the accepted reason must be submitted to the main office if he or she does not want his/her attendance grade lowered.

While tardies or absences that occur as a result of sleeping in, early departure or late return from vacations, finishing homework/projects, filling out passport forms, having a late practice or game the night before, having play practice or performance the night before, etc. may seem legitimate or excusable to you, they ARE NOT considered legal absences/tardies. Therefore, they will not be marked excused in eSchoolData by the attendance secretary. Remember, the attendance portion of the participation grade is based solely on the information in eSchoolData

#### **Part 2/Preparedness/Input:**

Points are deducted from the initial 100 as follows:

- unprepared** (no pen, missing books, forgot homework in locker, etc.) = -5
- disruptive or insubordinate behavior** = -5
- asked to leave room for disruptive behavior** = -10

*Students: please come to class prepared, on time, and with a good attitude. Your participation grade can be a great help or hindrance to your quarterly average. It's up to you.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**I have read and understand the above explanation regarding Mr. Natale's Grading Policy and Class Rules.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Mr. Natale*

- *The pink copy of this form should be signed and turned in to grade no later than this Friday.*
- *Parent/Guardian: please keep the blue copy for your records.*
- *Students: please keep the yellow copy in your notebook.*