Government Credit Acquisition

Summer 2014

Ms. Sturges

The purpose of this course is for you to acquire credits needed to graduate; this is a hefty task in the three and a half weeks allotted. We will be squeezing a lot of information into not a lot of time. Because of this **YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO COME TO BACK TO SCHOOL** from time to time in order to receive some instruction/complete activities. Please see the attached calendar for important dates.

The course starts on June 5th and ends on June 27th. **You must be finished with ALL course work by this date.** Units of study include:

1. Unit 1: Foundations of American Government
2. Unit 2: Participating in American Government
3. Unit 3: The Legislative Branch
4. Unit 4: The Executive Branch
5. Unit 5: The Judicial Branch
6. Unit 6: Civil Liberties and the Law
7. Unit 7: Political and Economic Systems

**Pictions**

The Edgenuity program includes a pretty flimsy vocab assignment for each lesson. As you know, vocab is something that cannot be escaped in social studies classes. You will be required to complete a Pictions sheet (picture definitions) for each unit. As you go through the vocab lessons for each unit you will choose at least 6 terms to include on your pictions worksheet. These can be found on the wikispace. Due dates for these assignments are on your calendar. Please attach them in an email with your name and the unit number ([csturge@topeka.k12.ks.us](mailto:csturge@topeka.k12.ks.us)).

**Email Conversations**

From time to time I will exercise my right as an educator to engage you in discussion (read: make you talk about stuff that may make you uncomfortable, angry, frustrated, etc). I will send a group email to the class. It is **required** that you respond to these emails. This will be a part of you grade. A rubric for these discussions is included.

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| **Score** | **Criteria:  The two threads…** |
| **4-5** | demonstrate thoughtful reading and deep reflection  support personal views with actual experience, readings, course materials, and peer postings  demonstrate in-depth understanding of key concepts central to the reading  integrate new understandings to current or future practice |
| **2-3** | demonstrate some reflection on the reading  support personal views but mostly superficially  demonstrate basic understanding of key concepts  attempt to integrate new understandings to current or future practice |
| **1** | lack thoughtful reflection  minimally support personal views  lack understanding of key concepts   minimally integrate new understandings to current or future practice |

**Required Class Sessions**

At least once every week you will be required to come to the ELC for a class session. I will give you each two opportunities to come to class. I have included a calendar so you know when I expect you to be in class. I **will not** make exceptions for students who do not make it to a session. This will result in a minor reduction in your grade[[1]](#footnote-1)

**DBQ**

You will each be required to complete a DBQ part of this course. You will use your knowledge, course work and the documents to construct and defend a thesis regarding this question ***Is the United States truly a democracy?*** Your rubric for this assignment is attached. The DBQ will be taken in the ELC at 8:30 on 5/20.

**Questions. Concerns**

I will be in the ELC every day between the hours of 7:30am and 3:30pm. If you have any questions or problems please feel free to come see me, email or call (785-438-4046). Please note that I will be teaching two other classes and may not be available during these other class times. Your calendar includes all class times. You may come see me during these times if you make an appointment to do so.

**Wikispace**

Please visit [www.twhssturges.wikispaces.com](http://www.twhssturges.wikispaces.com) for handouts, assignments and other information. When you visit this site please find “Credit Acquisition” on the left-hand side of the home screen. Find you class on the next page and download you assignment. I will post on this often.

1. Of course there are some exceptions (my car broke down, I over slept, I didn’t want to, I forgot, I got called into work, I hit a dog on the way to school, my boyfriend/girlfriend broke up with me…these are not exceptions) but they are VERY few and far between. If you believe you have a legitimate exception you need to contact me ASAP. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)