**“We the People”**

**“Course Syllabus – Fall 2022/Spring 2023”**

All lesson plans, student assignments, and links for the class can be found at the following:

[www.wshsfernandez.yolasite.com](http://www.wshsfernandez.yolasite.com)

**Introduction:**

Welcome to “We the People!”

It's an exciting time to be studying constitutional law, particularly when you stop and take note of all that's going on in the U.S. legal system: recent Supreme Court decisions concerning abortion, freedom of religion, and powers of the EPA, mass shootings across the country raising many 2nd Amendment questions, Americans wondering just how far the First Amendment should go in protecting the right to protest, all of us watching social media for the latest videos involving police and citizens, and historically unprecedented legal challenges to the presidential election of 2020. Even as we watch the local daily news there are White Station High School alumni protesting in the streets of Memphis, and I am proud that they understand and choose to demonstrate within the boundaries of their constitutional rights.

By the time you complete this course, you will have a developed a sound understanding of the history and functions of the American legal system, as well as partaken in an in-depth consideration of the significance and operation of the U.S. Supreme Court.  We will begin the year with a unit covering the rich history of our legal system.  Some of the information we will be reviewing dates to your eighth-grade year; but for many of you, all the great things that you learned in U.S. Government or U.S. History will certainly be of benefit.

Our first unit will take two to three weeks to cover, depending on how quickly classes get settled. We will cover, but not be limited to, the following topics during the first three weeks: Law in American Society, English Common Law History, the U.S. Constitution, ideology, September 11th, the Patriot Act, and Miranda.

It is imperative that you come to class ready to work. Our class time will be spent lecturing, taking notes, reviewing documentaries, developing logic and reasoning skills, and formally debating.

**Course Goals:**

The successful student will leave this course with the following:

1. a well-balanced understanding of and appreciation for the American legal system.

2. a basic understanding of and appreciation for *The Constitution of the United States of America.*

3. a well-developed ideology.

4. a desire to continue studying issues surrounding American practical law.

5. a desire to cast an informed vote come election day.

**Class Rules – Be Prompt, Be Prepared, Be Respectful.**

1. Students will be marked tardy who are not in their seat when the bell rings –

**possible reduction in participation average per infraction**.

3rd Tardy – email home – warning

5th Tardy – email home - “S” in conduct

7th Tardy – email home - “N” in conduct

10th Tardy – “U” in conduct

2. Late students are expected to enter the classroom quietly and sign in on the

folder at the front of the classroom.

3. Students are expected to have a charged laptop in class daily – we will use

TEAMS for the submission of all work.

4. Students must respect the opinions of others in the classroom.  We will be reviewing and discussing case law, much of which becomes personal for

many students.

5. Students must not have food or drink of any type out in the classroom.

6. Students are required to work quietly and diligently, as not to disturb.

7. Students are expected to behave professionally with their cell phones, as not

to disturb classmates or impede the class in any way.

8. Late work will be reduced by 20% per day it’s late. After a week it will be

recorded as a zero in the gradebook, unless the student has contacted the

teacher concerning the specific situation.

**Grading Policy:**

Grading for this class has been set by Shelby County Schools:

Homework (four grades = 2.5% each) = 10%

Class Participation (five grades = 1% each) = 5%

Classwork (five grades = 7% each) = 35%

Projects (only one grade) = 10%

Assessment (four grades = 10% each) =  40%

100%

**Grading Scale:**

**MSCS has a new grading scale for this year:**

**90-100 = A**

**80-89 = B**

**70-79 = C**

**60-69 = D**

**59 below = F**