

**Future Voters Syllabus**  
**Quarter 2 - November 9, 2020 - January 22, 2021**  
**Richard Aspinall - Team Katahdin**

This core class, “Future Voters”, is designed to provide students with basic knowledge and skills for functioning in modern American Society. The workings of the American government and the economy are also studied as students explore the importance of taking an active role as citizens of the United States of America. Application to the student's individual lives is stressed throughout the course as the students acquire information, apply it, and develop skills to cope with issues and problems in contemporary American society.

Topics covered will also include current events, citizenship, civic engagement, foundations of American government, and economics.

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, students will only be graded individually, with no group projects.

Students will have a variety of assessments which will include homework assignments, quizzes/tests, presentations, reports & essays and research web quests.

**Essential Questions:**

1. What are the roles & responsibilities of citizens in a democracy?
2. How do citizens (both individually and collectively) influence government policy?
3. What kinds of things do “good” citizens do?

**Maine Learning Results - Social Studies**

B. Civics and Government: Students draw on concepts from civics and government to understand political systems, power, authority, governance, civic ideals and practices, and the role of citizens in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

B1 Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns of Civics/Government

B2 Rights, Duties, Responsibilities, and Citizen Participation in Government

C. Economics: Students draw on concepts and processes from economics to understand issues of personal finance and issues of production, distribution, and consumption in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

## **Social Studies Priority Standards - Civics & Government**

D2.Civ.2.6-8. Explain specific roles played by citizens (such as voters, jurors, taxpayers, members of the armed forces, petitioners, protesters, and officeholders).

D2.Civ.4.6-8. Explain the powers and limits of the three branches of government, public officials, and bureaucracies at different levels in the United States and in other countries.

### **Class Structure and Grading:**

Quizzes, Tests & Assessments 30%

Some of the work for this class will require students to complete individual and/or group assignments and projects (there will not be any group assignments this quarter). In the future, when students work in groups, they will receive an individual grade. Quizzes and tests will be given from time to time with adequate opportunity for student preparation and study provided.

Homework/Classwork 50%

Homework assignments provide needed background information for activities to follow, and to enhance lab work. Homework is to be turned in on time for credit to be given. Unless due to absence or unforeseen circumstances, late work (passed in on the next respective Black or Gold Day) will only be graded up to a score of 80, afterwards it will not be accepted for credit (N - 50).

Research, Speaking & Listening 20%

Students are expected to research and complete projects that will answer a question and/or pose other questions. They are also required to present their information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development.

Class and Work Expectations/HOW Rubric

Using our HOW (Habits of Work) rubric, students will also be graded on class participation, time management and punctuality, as well as other topics to assist with students' personal growth & learning.

## Class and Work Expectations

Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared each day. They are also expected to turn in work on the day it is due, except in the case of absence. If there are special circumstances that will prevent a student from completing work by the due date, it is the student's responsibility to talk to the teacher before the work is due. If a student misses school, it is his/her responsibility to speak to the teacher immediately upon return to school to find out what was missed and when the missed work will be due.

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