

Legislative Semester
Marengo Community High School
2011/2012

Teacher: Mr. Meyer | Mr. Price | Mr. Fecarotta
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Course URL: <http://www.schooltown.net>

Course Description:

Legislative Semester is a one-semester course that explores the question of “What is an effective citizen?” The course is structured to promote student interaction with other members of the class as the central questions of the course are examined.

All Legislative Semester class sections participate in a semester long legislative simulation. The simulation attempts to approximate with as much authenticity as possible the structure and politics of the legislative process. Students take on political leadership and legislative responsibilities as they engage in decision-making processes common to a democratic society. The semester concludes with Committee Hearings and a reenactment of the House of Representatives in full session.

To fulfill State requirements for civic education, instruction and evaluation of student understanding of the United States Constitution, Illinois State Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Flag Code, and elections are incorporated in the course curriculum. Successful completion of this course meets the 0.5 credit requirement in Legislative Semester for graduation.

Course Objectives

- To teach the American system of government.
- To teach understanding of political party structure and political spectrum.
- To teach the electoral process.
- To teach the system of checks and balances in the American system of government.
- To educate the role of a citizen in a representative democracy.
- To teach and/or use civil discourse.

Required Reading Materials:

- *None.*

Required Classroom Materials: (daily)

- Black or blue pen, spiral notebook, and any materials given to you throughout Legislative Semester.

Study Time & Classroom Expectations:

Study times will vary. Students are expected to **READ** each portion of the given text/assignment, or additional materials, that is pertinent to the unit of study. Written work may take an hour or two but you will have several days to complete most assignments. Participation is required as an active member of the Legislative classroom.

Grading, Grading Scale & Tardy policy:

- See student handbook for MCHS grading scale.
- Tardy = not in your seat when the bell rings

Late Work Policy:

- See Mr. Meyer, Mr. Price, or Mr. Fecarotta for class specific policies.

Turning in Late Work:

- See Mr. Meyer, Mr. Price, or Mr. Fecarotta for class specific policies.

Homelogic Grading System:

- Grades for the Homelogic online grading system will be updated weekly on Wednesday by 3:15 pm.
- Assignments will also be posted on Homelogic and SchoolTown.net on a regular basis.

Technology Policy: (Subject to change throughout semester – students will be notified)

- Use the technology in a professional manner
 - Sites visited
 - Emails, tweets, blog posts, etc... ALL need to be professional.
 - *If you want a response from me, keep it professional*
- When the teacher is talking, students are to stop their task on the computer.
 - Remain on task – emailing during class is for assignment purposes only.
- Carry the netbooks properly
- Shut down the computer completely before returning to charge station
- Remember your passwords
- Report issues immediately with the netbooks (you are responsible if you don't)
- “Ask three before ME”

VIOLATIONS of any of the above points is subject to review and and/or removal of privileges regarding use of the netbooks in class.

Classroom Rules:

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

Standards for Classroom Behavior:

- Be on time to class! Students must be in their assigned seat when the tardy bell rings.
- Students are not permitted to leave class to go to their locker. If you do have to get something you will be given a tardy to compensate for being unprepared for class.
- Remain seated until dismissed from class
- Respect each other.
- Stay on task. Do what is asked of you.
- Contribute to the class in a positive manner.
- No iPods or cell phones are allowed.
- Follow all other standards listed in the student handbook.

Consequences for Failure to Meet Standards: (as per the student handbook)

1. Verbal Warning
2. Referral to Administration