COURSE OUTLINE - PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

Course Description:
The New York State Department of Education requires that all students take and pass Participation in Government in order to gain a high school diploma. A major aim of Participation in Government is to prepare students for a productive and meaningful life as citizens in local, state, national, and international settings. Therefore, in this course you will be studying both modern and historic public issues that will increase your awareness on your individual rights and responsibilities as a citizen. Both individual and group work will be assigned, as will current event assignments, textbook readings, and video viewing. Through a variety of activities and materials, students will gain a greater understanding of democracy in action.

Students will view the following film:
Bowling for Columbine - Michael Moore's Academy Award winning film on gun control. Rated R.

Necessary Materials
One 3-ring binder (single subject) with looseleaf paper for notes that has pockets for worksheets.

Grading System
- **Homework – 10%** Assignments will be given regularly that will require student effort. Work may include project work, individual assignments from the text, worksheets, preparing for exams, essays, and other activities.
- **Class work– 20%** Class activities will be a regularly assigned and graded. These activities will require effort and focus. Grades are based on completing assignments promptly, preparation and positively engaging oneself in the classroom. Be on time with your materials, pay attention, and respect others views and you will do well in this category.
- **Tests and Quizzes – 70%** Tests will be administered at the conclusion of each unit. Quizzes will be administered in any number of ways, typically with vocabulary being assessed regularly.
- **Guidelines for re-takes**
  1. All re-takes are given at the discretion of the teacher
  2. Re-takes will apply to exams, projects, and papers
  3. Re-takes must be taken in the academic marking period that the assessment was originally given
  4. Re-takes will be given after the last bell on Thursdays upon the written request of the student and the approval of the teacher

The Social Studies Department will offer retakes for the following categories:
- Scores between 0 – 64 can re-take for a maximum grade of 65
- Scores between 64 - 84 can re-take for a maximum grade of 85

Extra Help
Extra help will be available throughout the semester. I will be available after school on a regular basis (usually three or more weekdays.

Communication
This outline is to be shared with your parent or guardian and counts as your first homework grade. The signature of your parent or guardian on the following page is required. If there is ever a need to contact me, please do so through the school at 654-9005 or e-mail badaszewskik@corinthcsd.org. I have found that if possible, e-mail is the most effective way for parents to communicate concerns or questions.
PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

Name of student: _______________________

I have read the course outline and understand the responsibilities necessary for successful participation in this class.

Parent/Guardian

Printed name: _________________________

Signature: _____________________________

By signing this I have read and understand the general policies and description of this course. A parental signature constitutes permission for your child to watch the films described in this syllabus.