



Public Policy

2020-2021

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Room: 2104

GoogleClassroom: _____

Course Description

Public Policy/Analysis is a social science elective course that covers a variety of styles of public debate topics. Through research and practice students will become familiar with these styles through instruction, research, and practice. Each unit will culminate in performance and assessments that require students to demonstrate their abilities and knowledge within the classroom setting. Opportunities to take their knowledge to competitions at the local and state level will be made available to students as well

This Course is designed to give the students experience in developing a thesis and a supported argument that can be used in most real life situations. The communication, research and critical thinking skills students learn in Public Policy will be extremely valuable in high school, college, and beyond. In addition, participation in extracurricular speech and debate events instills a solid work ethic, time management skills, networking skills, and enhances social skills. .

Course Objectives

The student will develop and deliver thoughtful arguments and support and defend positions and assertions based on reasoning and logic while employing common forms of forensic persuasive speaking and writing skills.

This course is designed to help students:

1. Gain confidence and experience in public discourse
2. Locate sources through research and differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources
3. Incorporate sources into conversations in order to support a position
4. Become proficient in research techniques, including Internet research, newspaper research, periodical research, and primary sources
5. Increase their working knowledge of current events
6. Differentiate between fact, opinion, and fact-driven opinion
7. Develop critical thinking skills and the ability to look at/appreciate both sides of an issue
8. Develop an awareness of posture, vocal quality, personal appearance, and verbal and nonverbal communication in formal speaking situations
9. Exhibit a logical arrangement of ideas in writing and in speech
10. Exhibit the ability to draw logical conclusions from critical evaluation of facts and ideas.
11. Learn to show courtesy and grace in the midst of strong disagreements
12. Use proper internet etiquette when posting and responding to others

Course Units

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Intro to Public Policy Research Techniques	Election 2020 Thesis Prep	Written & Oratory Skills	Advanced Research and Policy Analysis

Materials

Required! Bring a **mask** (one can be provided if you can't get one), writing materials, a notebook/Pens/Pencils, a charged laptop and a willingness to learn every day.

Some **HIGHLY** suggested items include; Tissues, Disinfecting Wipes, Hand Sanitizer

Thank You!

CHARGED LAPTOPS EVERY DAY!

Skyward Grading

Score Method	Term Grades (MHS Policy)	Grading Scale (MHS Policy)
Grading Criteria: Participation= 40% Assignments/Tests= 40% Final/EOC= 20%	Fall Semester 1= 80% End of Course Assessment=20% Spring Semester 2= 80% End of Course Assessment=20%	A=90%-100% B=80%-89% C=70%-79% D=60%-69% F=Below 60%

Make-Up Work (MHS Policy)

Papers, assignments, tests, etc. that were announced while the student was in attendance prior to the absence are due to be submitted or completed on the day the student returns to school. A student will be allowed two (2) school days for each day of excused absence to make up material presented during the absence. Make-up time is not to exceed ten (10) days from the time a student returns to school after an absence. Additional time may be granted at the principal's discretion under extenuating circumstances. When a student has been absent for three (3) or more consecutive school days due to illness or excused absence the parent or student may call the Attendance Office to request make-up homework be sent to the office for pick-up. Please allow 24 hours for teachers to respond before coming to the office to pick up work. **In the case of pre-arranged absences, it is the responsibility of the student to contact individual teachers for any make-up work prior to the absence.**

Late Work

I WILL take points off work turned in late. Late work WILL also be graded more critically because of the additional time. If you have extenuating circumstances contact me BEFORE the assignment is due and we can make another arrangement that I will hold you accountable for. If this becomes a pattern then I will be less likely to allow extensions. NO assignments can be accepted after a grading period ends.

Classroom Rules and Procedures

The student **MUST** observe the code of conduct in the student handbook at all times!

Cell Phones

Middleton High School assigns laptops (1:1 program) for student use. This makes the use of cellphones during class time a non-negotiable, unnecessary accessory. Due to the increasing amount of distractions, behavioral issues, cheating, and non-educational use which cell phones are causing in the classroom, cell phones will **not** be allowed in the classroom. Cell phones must remain out of sight in the classroom and will be sent to the front office if this is not followed. All cell phones that are sent to the front office can only be picked up by a parent/guardian after school. Cell phone storage is offered and encouraged. Students will be **REQUIRED** to put their cell phones in storage during tests.

Students will enter the room on time with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.

- Have materials ready for class when it begins.
- Be engaged in content up until the bell. **NEVER "LINE UP"!!!**
- Do not distract yourself or others from what is being taught.
- Minimal time will be spent on breaks

Students will show respect to all members of the classroom.

- Students will keep a kind tone when talking to each other and the teacher
- Foul or questionable language is prohibited and will be **STRICTLY** enforced!
- Do not visit when the Teacher or another student has the floor
- Maintain a volume in which learning can be achieved.
- Respect classmates' personal space and belongings.
- Theft will be dealt with severely. Never touch my desk or cabinets.
- YES! This means YOU!

Students will use technology and facilities in a way that is beneficial to learning.

- Laptops are used only for educational purposes (no games).
- Bring them charged every day! Bring your charger as well.
- Food/Drink use needs to be reasonable. If you need a snack or drink at some point I expect you to be mature enough to take care of your needs without disruption to the class and with the ability to not cause work for me or the custodial staff. If this becomes an issue, I reserve the right to ban this privilege.
- Food wrappers NEVER go into recycling!

CLASSROOM DAILY PROCEDURES

Students should walk into the room, sit down and immediately follow the instructions on the board. This will be done in their bell ringer notebook which could be used on an open note quiz at any time. If a student is absent they will have to make note of those days in their notebook or they will lose credit for that day.

I will take attendance right when the bell rings. Each student should be in their assigned seat at this time or they will be marked tardy.

You may be called on at any time to repeat what I teach, or to add to a discussion, so paying attention in class is paramount to success. Participation points depend on it.

Don't waste laptop battery/time on games or surfing the internet. **Charge your laptop at home** every night. Computers should be treated with respect as they are school property even if they are assigned to you.

Students are expected to be engaged in content up until the bell rings. No huddling around the door or in the hallway.

Don't expect to leave class unless you really need to use the restroom. This will not be offered at the beginning of class. Don't use this time to talk to other teachers or do other business. You may email teachers if you have questions about grades, don't interrupt class for this purpose. These should be limited. You will be marked truant if you leave for too much of class without a great excuse from another staff member.

Things that **WILL** get you sent to the office and a call to parent/guardian:

- 1) Vaping
- 2) Habitual/Repetitive Vulgarity
- 3) Inappropriate Laptop Use
- 4) Refusal to refrain from Cell Phone use
- 5) Blatant Insubordination

Discipline

Discipline will be based on the Handbook, or the above rules.

Academic Integrity (MHS Policy)

All work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. All material found during research must be correctly documented/cited to avoid plagiarism. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on course assignments or exams will lose credit for that assignment or exam. The teacher will notify parents. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, including a parent conference.

Student & Parent Resources

School Website: <http://mhs.msd134.org/>

Write your Google Classroom code here: _____

Assignment #1

Go to Google Classroom and turn in the assignment that acknowledges you read this.

DUE WEDNESDAY!!!