## Civics & American Government

## Syllabus, Student Signature, & Information Sheet

**Course Description and Essential Knowledge**

This course is designed to give the student a better understanding of the framework of government on both the national and local level. Through the course you will gain a deeper understanding of your own political thought, and the thoughts of those in power. We will also spend a lot of time discussing current events.

**Textbooks**

We will utilize a digital textbook for this course.

*American Government* – Available: <http://www.ushistory.org/gov/>

**Units of Study:**

Unit 1: Introduction to Government

Unit 2: Foundations of American Government

Unit 3: The Constitution & Federalism

Unit 4: Political Parties & Ideology

Unit 5: Campaigns and Elections

Unit 6: The Legislative Branch

Unit 7: The Executive Branch

Unit 8: The Judicial Branch

Unit 9: Civil Liberties

Unit 10: Foreign Policy and Comparative Government

Unit 11: State & Local Government

**Goals of the Course**

1. Students will acquire knowledge of Civics and American Government including specific names, terms, and concepts.
2. Students will weave together the skills and content of civics, history, and geography and learn how they affect each other.
3. Students will consider multiple perspectives, weigh evidence, and make sound judgments about the contemporary world.
4. These processes build student confidence as critical thinkers.
5. Learners will leave prepared for advanced level courses in the social sciences and some of the analytical tasks common to the 21st century work world.

**Student Progress, Assessment, and Grading**

Evaluation of the student takes the form of formative and summative assessments. Formative assessment generates information of student progress toward proficiency and excellence in meeting the goals of the course. Summative assessments are one-shot measures of student learning. Student evaluation will employ a variety of instruments including but not limited to, student reflections, entry and exit slips, multiple choice quizzes and tests, essays, projects, and class discussions. Warm ups, in-class reviews, extra help after school will be offered to students as needed in order to assure their mastery of the curriculum. Bonus points and or assignmentsmay be awarded at the discretion of the instructor.

Interim and Quarter grades indicate what the student knows about the content and what they can do with that knowledge at a specific point in time and will be calculated using a total point system based on the following: content, skills, homework and projects.

The final course grade reflects the student’s progress toward mastery of content and skills from September to June. Final course grades are determined based on the following categories with consideration for the overall trend:

* Grade earned in the first quarter: 22.5%
* Grade earned in the second quarter: 22.5%
* Grade earned in the third quarter: 22.5%
* Grade earned in the fourth quarter: 22.5%
* Grade earned on the final exam: 10.0%

**The teacher reserves the right to consider the student’s progress and growth over the entire school year when determining the final grade.**

The following scale will be used to determine your grade:

A: 93-100

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 83-86

B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79

C: 73-76

C-: 73-76

D+: 67-69

D: 64-66

F: below 64

Faculty members will be available for remediation and assistance on late bus days and after school on non-late bus days by appointment.

**Expectations:**

1. **Arrive to class on time and come to Class prepared.** Students should bring a notebook/binder and pen/pencil to class every day.
2. **Student work accountability**. Students are responsible for completing ALL assignments. Students can request an extension for some assignments but extensions are not granted for routine assignments*.* Work that is excessively late detracts from student learning. The instructors of this course believe that responsibility for learning is an essential outcome of the course as well, and as such, all late work handed in after the associated unit test, though always accepted, may be subject to reduction of credit. When assignment deadlines (original or extended) are missed, students will be required to have a conference with the course instructor. The conference may need to be scheduled after school, or some other time outside of the regular time the class meets. Parents, counselors, and administrators may also attend conferences at the discretion of the instructor. All late work is due one week prior to the end of each quarter for consideration in the quarter grade.
3. **Be organized**. ALL assignments, notes, and handouts should be kept in your notebook/binder because it is being graded. If you are absent, you should get any missed assignments from blackboard. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, including videos, presentations, and supplementary readings.
4. **Do your own work** (No plagiarism or cheating). Students are expected to complete their own work. Any student who gives or receives unauthorized help (including materials) on quizzes, tests, or other assignments is cheating. Plagiarism - using text from another source, including Internet web sites, without permission or citation - is also considered inappropriate. Such behavior will result in a student receiving no credit for the assignment, and the student will be referred by the teacher to the Honor council. For more information refer to Honor Council Handout.
5. **A classroom is based on RESPECT**.
   * You are expected to politely listen to your classmates' opinions and ideas, think about what they have said, and contribute yourself. Throughout the year students will be introduced to different cultures, lifestyles, and religions, students must be respectful, not judgmental. Statements of bigotry, intolerance, and racism will be punished with detention, and parents will be contacted.
   * Respect property that is not your own. Unless something is yours, do not touch it without permission. This refers to anything belonging to your classmates, the furniture in the room, and the teacher's belongings
   * Conduct yourself appropriately in class. No eating or drinking (including candy and gum) is allowed in the classroom. Treat others as you wish to be treated.
6. **Materials needed**.
   * Notebook
   * Pen and pencil
   * Colored pencils

**Revising & Resubmitting Assessments:**

Retakes are an option designed to help students demonstrate mastery on **major** assessments. A retake can be requested by a student. A retake can also be required by the teacher or a student’s support team (e.g. the Individualized Education Plan team or a parent/student/teacher partnership).When doing retakes, students will be expected to complete a new assessment, not repeat the original. The student should also submit the original assignment with the retake if it was returned to them by their teacher (to document learning over time).

A retake follows additional learning to help achieve mastery. These activities may include test corrections, after school with the teacher or peers, and/or other remediation activities created by the teacher or course team.

Additional effort and retakes must be completed within the timeframe established by the teacher to accommodate quarterly grade deadlines. Retakes will not be allowed in the last week of the quarter. In support of mastery learning, the retake opportunity will be the grade recorded (unless otherwise specified by the teacher).

## Civics & American Government Syllabus:

Student Signature & Information Sheet

I have read and understand the expectations and procedures described above for Civics & American Government. *Throughout the year I agree to follow and support them, and when I find that I cannot follow and support them, I agree to discuss my concerns with my instructor.*

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please respond to the following questions.**

Do you have convenient access to a computer and reliable internet access? Is your access at home or someplace else? Is your access to the computer limited, for example do you share this computer with anyone else?

What (3) words would you give to describe yourself?

Is there anything else you think the instructor should know about you as a student in this course?

## Civics & American Government Syllabus:

## Parent/Guardian Signature & Information Sheet

I have read the expectations and classroom procedures described above and will support them. *Throughout the year I agree to support them, and when I find that I cannot follow and support them, I agree to discuss my concerns with my student’s instructor.*

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide the following information.**

Parent/guardian’s e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (home): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (work): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please respond to the following questions.**

What are THREE (3) words/phrases that best describe your son/daughter’s personality?

What are TWO (2) words/phrases that best describe your son/daughter academically?

Is there any additional information that you feel the instructor should know about your student in this course?