

Honors Civics

Syllabus/Course Expectations

Fall 2021

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COURSE OVERVIEW:

- ❖ Unit 1: Foundations of Government
- ❖ Unit 2: U.S. Constitution
- ❖ Unit 3: Federal Government
- ❖ Unit 4: Law and the Legal System
- ❖ Unit 5: Citizenship
- ❖ Unit 6: Personal Financial Literacy
- ❖ Unit 7: Microeconomics
- ❖ Unit 8: Macroeconomics

TEXT:

Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You (2014). An online subscription is available for each student and accessible using a login you create. This is a wonderful interactive resource for the class and will be used quite a bit to support our work both in class and for homework.

MATERIALS:

You are encouraged to organize yourself and course materials. You'll be expected to keep at least a section reserved for this course in a three-ring loose leaf binder.

I. Classroom Rules/Expectations

- ❖ Come to our class on time and be prepared to learn.
- ❖ Respect fellow students and teachers as demonstrated by your actions and words.
- ❖ Don't copy another student's work or allow your work to be copied. Copied work will result in a zero for both students. Collaboration on class assignments is encouraged. Copying of work, is not. **Final work should be individually created.**
- ❖ Much of your work is to be completed and submitted on Canvas. Longer form assignments are to be typed and should follow MLA format.

II. Classroom Procedures

Procedures are designed so we can get the most from our time together. They help by providing routines and order that facilitate a better learning environment for all students.

- ❖ Start class warm-up (activator) exercises promptly at the beginning of class.
- ❖ Class will be divided between teacher instructions and time for group/independent work.
- ❖ Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class..
- ❖ Students should dress appropriately.
- ❖ Students should conduct themselves in an academically professional manner.

III. Grading Policy

My grading policy is designed to recognize the different learning styles that are unique to each student.

GRADES:

Your class grade will be based upon the following weighted categories and scale:

Category	Percent of total grade		Report Card Grade	Scale
Formative Assessments	50%		A	90-100%
Summative Assessments	40%		B	80-89%
Homework for Completion	10%		C	70-79%
Total	100%		D	60-69%
			F	≤59%

Some examples of formative assessments include classwork, short writing assignments, quizzes, and webquests.

Some examples of summative assessments are unit tests, projects, research papers, and longer-form writing assignments.

NOTE: PowerSchool is the final registry for grades. DO NOT USE CANVAS AS A BASIS FOR YOUR GRADE!

IV. Tests and Quizzes

- ❖ Most units will conclude with a test which will be announced in advance.
- ❖ Quizzes may be either announced or unannounced.
- ❖ If you are absent for a test or quiz, you have three school days to make it up.
Failure to take the test/quiz within three days of your return to school will result in a zero.

Note: Students may retake quizzes with the teacher's permission prior to the review day for the unit test as long as they seek academic support with me. The grade earned on the re-assessed quiz –whether it is higher or lower than the initial quiz -- will be recorded.

Unit tests may not be reassessed.

V. Homework

- ❖ Homework is meant to reinforce and extend what we learn in class. It's also a means for me to assess student understanding. Generally speaking, students will have homework assignments 2-3 times each week. Assignments and class updates will be posted in class and on Canvas. I will make every effort to post the class agenda and homework assignments at the beginning of each week.

VI. Essays and Research Papers

- ❖ Please type all essays or research papers that are completed out of class.
- ❖ Essays and research papers will be graded using a rubric based on organization, thought, and research.
- ❖ MLA rules apply.

VII. Late Work

In order to keep up with grading and to be more timely in providing feedback, assignments will be handled as follows:

Due date - full credit

Deadline - 4 days (max), 10% reduction for each additional day.

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE.

VII. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for that assignment.

This includes copying another student's work or allowing your work to be copied.

Copied work results in a zero for *both* students. Violating test procedures results in a zero for the test. All incidents will be referred to an administrator and parent.

VIII. Communications

Class discussion is an important part of all social studies classes. Classes often involve students expressing their opinions on various topics pertinent to our society. This semester we'll be more interactive using a class blog. **You don't have to agree with your peers, but you should always be respectful of them.** Rules of engagement for class discussions and our blog will be strictly enforced.

IX. Absences

It's the student's responsibility to reach out to me to identify missed class content and assignments. This should happen no later than the day you return to school.

IX. Additional Teacher Support

I am available via email (paul.irvin@bcsemail.org) and during office hours (2-3:30 school days).