

U.S. CIVICS
Terrace Community Middle School
Department of Social Studies

(Utilizing the Florida State Standards and New Generation Sunshine State Standards)

Teacher: Nathan Yurchak
7th grade U.S. CIVICS
School Year 2018-2019

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INTRODUCTION

To give you a brief summary of some of the topics included, we will study the following:

C-onstitution and Government (local, state, federal)
I-ndividual Rights and Responsibilities
V-oting Laws and Responsibilities
I-nternational Policies and Relationships
C-itizenship and Community Involvement
S-upreme Court Landmark Cases

“Civics is intended to develop students to become knowledgeable, responsible, and actively engaged citizens. Civics builds the skills to effectively participate in a democratic society by having students experience the role of the citizen in political, social, and economic systems. It incorporates an examination of the rights and duties of citizens, the structure and function of government, and the study of history.”

Florida Joint Council for Citizenship

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course grade is calculated from the following 5 components: Homework, Assessments including Tests and CLA’s (Creative Long term Assignments) aka projects, Interactive Folder and Current Events, Quizzes both announced/POP, Class Work/Bell Work, and Semester Exam/**EOC = 30% of 2nd Semester’s grade.**

Grade Breakdown by Quarter:

- 10% Interactive Folder/Current Events
- 10% Class Work/Bell Work
- 20% Homework
- 20% Quizzes
- 40% Assessments (Tests, CLA’s)

Attendance: Attendance is the most important ingredient to the success of the class. Learning is an interactive process. For this reason, your participation in class activities is crucial. Classroom participation may include questions, answers, notes, and comments about any aspects of the course. Attendance will be taken daily. All absences are considered unexcused until you have submitted official documentation. Absences are the most common cause of zeroes in the grade book. Be here every school day if possible. **If you are absent, make-up work is your responsibility (the student’s)!** You may also get a “study buddy” to pick up assignments for you.

Tardy Policy: **Students will be expected to be quietly in their seats and working on the bell work when the bell rings.**

Homework/Class Work: Throughout the year, you shall be required to do various tasks/assignments at home and in class. Failure to turn them in/complete on time will result in a ZERO grade. **Homework is to be turned in on time. There will be no late work accepted! All assignments must be completed in order to receive a good grade for the Interactive Folder.**

Current Events and Public Speaking: It is pertinent that U.S. CIVICS students know what is going on in the world around them. At the beginning of the school year, each student will be given a unique country to research and current events will be due on posted weekly dates. **We will rotate between boys and girls so that a student will only have a biweekly current event (up to 4 per quarter).** To develop public speaking skills, students should be prepared to stand before the class and present their current event. NOTE: As information will be taken from the Internet, Newspapers, etc. it is essential that each current event has an accompanying bibliography in the correct (MLA) format for the resource used. **(A sample will be shown in class).**

Late Assignments: Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted (except by school policy). **An assignment is considered late after I have collected/graded the assignment during class.** Please note that your ability to manage your work and time is as much a part of the assignment as the completion of the homework. To avoid leaving your homework at home, it should be done early and then secured in your backpack and placed near your exit door so you will remember to bring it to school. Additionally, your printer will most likely break/run out of ink during the course of the year. When it does break or does not have ink, you can NEATLY handwrite the assignments or you may go to the media center in the morning/lunch/afternoon to print with your student ID (best choice). Lastly, homework is the students' responsibility alone, thus, no excuses will be accepted for late work.

No Credit: No credit will be given for any assignment, test or quiz turned in without a heading. You will earn a ZERO**. TCMS has a required heading (posted in class), which is to be placed upon every assignment, test and quiz. **The heading should be the first thing done...not the last.** Also, you should proofread your work before you submit an assignment, test, or quiz. Don't leave blank answers...when you try, you might be surprised and end up with correct answers. **(**Points will be received when such paper is identified, labeled correctly, and returned to the teacher for rescoring).**

In middle school, a student shall learn to be fully responsible for his/her actions and work ethic. Homework and all project assignments fall into this category.

Therefore, the following is stipulated by this board and administrative policy:

- At no time will a student's homework, which includes assigned classroom and out of classroom projects, be accepted late unless pre-cleared by the classroom teachers and for emergency purposes only.
- Under no condition may a student's homework be brought to school by a family member.

Assessments: You will sit for tests, which requires you to understand major themes in U.S. CIVICS. You will also be asked to create original CLA's (Creative Long-term Assignments) which may include models, research reports, and more, such as 5-Paragraph Essay Writings.

Writing Format: When needed, assignments must be documented properly with MLA footnote citation and bibliography, titled, typed (**Times New Roman, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1" margin on all sides, and black ink on white paper...all typed assignments should have this style**). Do not include a separate title

page. These standards are in conjunction with the social studies and language arts departments. **Each paragraph should be indented at the start of the paragraph.**

Plagiarism and Cheating: You are responsible for performing your own work. Plagiarism is taking the words or ideas of another person and presenting them without appropriate documentation. The student handbook outlines specific penalties (page __) for plagiarism and cheating which is a level two offense. **If you plagiarize, you will receive a "0" for the assignment, a call home, and you will be reported to the administration office.**

Plagiarism/Cheating/Lying is a Level One Violation with the following consequences, as well as loss of privileges:

- First: Up to three days of after school detention
- Second: One day out of school suspension
- Third: Two days of out of school suspension

Classroom Behavior: You are expected to observe proper classroom etiquette. This code of behavior must be followed so that class activities can be carried out effectively. In general, please refrain from behaving in such ways that would interfere or disrupt class activities. Violations of the student conduct code will invoke a measured response as dictated by the handbook. REMEMBER: Be **Respectful**, Be **Responsible**, and good **Results** will come your way! Students are expected to show respect towards the TCMS staff and other students, as well as the property of the school, teachers, and other students. This encompasses a full range of behaviors that we will discuss and reinforce throughout the year, including but not limited to: being courteous, being punctual and paying attention to and following teacher instructions.

Restrooms: Go before or after class! Because our time together will be jammed pack, please use the restroom before or after class or during lunchtime. You don't want to miss something important. There are always emergency situations so please communicate to me. You must sign-out and sign-in each time you want to use the restroom and it will count towards your 5 per quarter "emergency" limit in my class.

Materials: 4-pocket folders with prongs (2 Red, 2 Blue), pencils, pens, and 1 roll of clear packaging tape (to be kept at home). You will also need some index cards for flash cards/vocabulary, and having a stapler for putting an assignment together, and colored pencils and markers at home, helps.

Communication: Primary mode of communication is Edsby Edsby and...oh yea EDSBY! I love Edsby, you can message me on there anytime! Parents for significant issues you can also reach me via e-mail!

Study Suggestions: Should you drop your grade below an acceptable level, I have two standard suggestions.

1. Specify a two hour time block nightly when the entire household shuts down and focuses on academics. Everyone sits at a common table (if parents can not be at the table, it is best if they are at least within view). No TV, radio, music, phone calls, computers, etc. Family members (esp. siblings) may help each other.
2. Have a study partner, who is a successful student in my class. This is very common in the high-powered universities. The same magic occurs at all levels. The study partner (Study Buddy) must be someone with a solid GPA. Partners should be able to focus together and accomplish work without many distractions.

Tutoring: Weekly afternoon (“Extra Help”) tutoring sessions are on Thursdays from 3:10PM-4:00PM. Students must report to the classroom. If you have a current grade of “C”, “D”, or “F”, you should plan on attending and asking questions.

COURSE OUTLINE

ORIGINS AND PURPOSES OF LAW AND GOVERNMENT

- **Influences of the Enlightenment
- **Influence of Colonists’ View of Government
- **Colonial Concerns and Writing of the Declaration of Independence
- **The Articles of Confederation
- **Preamble of the U.S. Constitution
- **Constitutional Limits on the Powers of Government
- **Federalists, Anti-Federalists and the Constitution
- **The Rule of Law
- **Sources and Types of Laws

ROLES, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS

- **Citizenship
- **Obligations and Responsibilities of Citizens
- **Rights in the U.S. Constitution
- **U.S. Constitution and Individual Rights
- **The Impact of Constitutional Rights
- **The Evolution of Voting Rights
- **Landmark Supreme Court Cases

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND POLITICAL PROCESSES

- **Political Parties
- **Monitoring and Influencing Government
- **Media and Political Communication
- **Understanding Issues Through Multiple Perspectives
- **Understanding U.S. Domestic and Foreign Policies
- **Government and Citizen Participation in International Organization
- **The United States and International Conflict

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT

- **Comparing Forms of Government
- **Systems of Government
- **Structure and Function of Government
- **Federalism
- **Amending the U.S. Constitution
- **Processes and Lawmaking
- **Federal and State Courts
- **Comparing the Florida and U.S. Constitutions
- **Government Obligations and Services

**** PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE, SIGN, AND RETURN TO Mr. Yurchak by Wednesday. August 15th ****

I have read this syllabus, and understand my responsibilities as a student in the 7th Grade Civics class.
_____ (student)

I have read this syllabus, the, and will support my student in fulfilling these policies for 7th Grade Civics.
_____ (parent)