Civics Syllabus

MHS Mrs. Scott Rm. 306

Planning Period – 3rd

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**Introduction**

Welcome to Civics!  This class is a required course for graduation and is worth one-half credit.

**Textbook - TBA**

Each student will *not* be assigned a book to keep at home.  Much of our work is in-class and the textbooks will remain in the classroom. Students will need to pick up one from the class set as soon as he/she walks into the door **and** will put it back on the way out of class.  Textbooks will be available for nightly check out if the student needs extra access to the book.

**Course Study**

This course is divided this course into 5 units.  Each unit will have an assessment and at the end of the semester, there will be a cumulative final.  All appropriate Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) for history and Social Studies will all be covered in this class, as well as one *Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) will be given at the end of the semester to check the students’ understanding of these state-selected benchmarks.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNIT** | **UNIT TITLE** | **Assessment** |
|  |  |  |
| Unit 1 | Foundations of American Government |  |
| Unit 2 | The Constitution |  |
| Unit 3 | The Legislative Branch |  |
| Unit 4 | The Executive Branch |  |
| Unit 5 | The Judicial Branch, Civil Rights & Liberties |  |

**Power Standards**

Power standards are prioritized state standards that prepare students for the next level of learning.  These standards identify what students should know and be guaranteed to do in the amount of teaching time available.  The power standards for Civics, as chosen at the district level, are as follows:

Students will be able to:

1.  Understand key ideals, principles and documents of the United States.

2.  Understand the purposes, organization, & function of governments, laws and politics.

3.  Understand civic involvement.

4.  Use critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate opinions.

5.  Use research and problem solving skills.

6.  Think critically about public issues.

7.  Create a product that uses social studies skills to support a thesis (opinion) and be able to      meaningfully present the information

And, if there is time and the standard applies to the lessons:

8.  Understand economic systems.

9.  Understand the government’s role in the economy.

10.  Understand that history is a timeline that goes in a specific order.

11.  Use history to understand the present and plan for the future.

**What to Bring to Class:** It is expected that students will bring their laptop with charger and headphones, pencil or pen and any notes to class EVERYDAY. Failure to come to class prepared will make it harder for you, but if needed I have supplies for you to use.

**Supply List**

3 – 1 subject notebooks

**Attendance**

* I strictly enforce the school’s absence **and** tardy policy.
* The more absences you acquire, the harder it will be to earn a good grade in this class.

**Schology**

Schology will be used for some assignments.

**Warm-Up Questions/Writing Prompts**: Everyday students will complete warm-up questions at the start of class. These questions generally will be a review of what they learned the previous day(s) or what we are about to learn that day. Students are expected to write down ALL questions and their answers. Periodically the questions will be collected and graded. If a student is absent when warm-up questions are collected they will be turn it in when they return to class. The questions are located on the clip board on the wall by the flag. These questions are designed to review course material and gage student understanding. Answers to these questions are generally found in students’ textbook or notes.

**Current Events:** An important part of this course is discussing what is currently happening throughout the world and applying it to our study of the government. Students will need to write in their notebook a “current event” twice a week. In Schoology or you notebook, you will submit a title of the story, a brief description of the story, and your opinion of the story and how it relates to government or civics. Until Schoology is available to you will use a notebook for this. Once Schoology is available if you are comfortable you can still write it down, or do it on Schoology. It is your responsibility to make sure you are not sharing your story with another student. Articles should be focusing on government based topics not sports and pop culture. The teacher reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time. If there any questions please feel free to call or email the teacher.

**MAKE UP/LATE WORK:**

Make up work will be accepted.  It is your responsibility to ask for and complete your work.

If students know they will be absent (I.e. field trip, family vacation) please let Mrs. Scott know. Work can be gathered before the student leaves. It must be returned the next day student returns to class, or it will be considered late. After 5 days all late word will be accepted for 50% of the grade and the effort you put into it.

Do not copy your classmates’ work, if you are caught or I have proof that you have, you and the person you are copying off of will share the grade. Otherwise, if you made 100 on the assignment, you both will only receive a 50.

**CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

* Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted in class.  From the time the bell rings to start a class until the bell rings ending class cell phones will not be seen or heard, consequences for distracting the class with a cell or electronic device are as follows:

1. Taken away to be returned at the end of class.
2. Taken away to be returned at the end of the school day.
3. Taken and given to an administrator to be returned when a parent comes and picks up the device.

\*\*\*MP3 players and IPODs **ARE NOT** permitted in class

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

* Be on time and prepared to learn every day.
* Remain seated until I dismiss you
* Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and our beautiful building.
* Challenge yourself and take pride in the work your do.
* Listen and follow directions.
* Treat others how you wish to be treated

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS FOR THE TEACHER:**

* I will strictly adhere to all Marion High School policies as outlined in your student handbook.
* I will be willing to help you outside of class, at a mutually agreeable time to assist in your success in class.
* I will help you enjoy this class and your high school experience.
* I will make sure that everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

**Grades**

The grading scale is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 100-90 | A |
| 89-80 | B |
| 79-70 | C |
| 69-60 | D |
| 59-0 | f |

Your grades are weighted by the following categories:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Projects/Unit Test | 40% |
| Quizzes/Monthly Essays/Oral presentation | 30% |
| Homework/classwork | 20% |
| Nonfiction writing | 10% |

**Movies and History**

Occasionally, Hollywood does a good job contextualizing history & political concepts.  When a film is appropriate, and we have time, I will show a video.

The movies that I may be showing this semester are as follows:

12 Angry Men

Dave

The Candidate

All the Presidents Men

If you feel that any of these films are inappropriate for your student to watch, please indicate so on the signature page.  Your student will be given an alternate and comparable assignment, and will *never* miss any points for opting out of a movie for moral/spiritual/family reasons.  However, if a student misses a film due to an excused absence, he/she will be required to either come before/after school to watch the missed portion or complete the alternate assignment.  For unexcused absences, please see the absence policy above.

PLEASE SIGN IN PEN AND RETURN: I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print student name), have read and agree to all terms of the syllabus for the 2022-2023 Civics class. I agree to try my best and be honest.

Student Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DUE Date: August 5, 2022