



Wilson High School

2025-26 Syllabus

Reading Support Social Studies: Civics

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Course Description:

This course is designed to offer students a strong introduction to government, citizenship, and the American legal system. The foundations of political democracy, citizen rights and responsibilities, government, and citizen interaction on local, state, national issues, global interdependence, and citizen influence of public policy are major units that will be analyzed and supported with various texts throughout the course.

Course Objectives:

The intent of this course is to provide the student with a unique opportunity to discover aspects of the American government; from its beginning to present day, and examine the influence of citizens in the United States and around the world. This will be accomplished by utilizing a blend of lecture, seminar, independent research, group activities, primary source and secondary source readings, visual and auditory aids, interviews, and role-playing.

The course is designed to enhance critical thinking skills and awareness of government and economic systems by providing the student with opportunities to identify central issues, determine relevance, make comparisons, recognize cause and effect, predict consequences, and draw conclusions.

The list below are topics that students will discover throughout the academic school year:

- Foundations of American Government
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- Civil Rights & Liberties
- Political Participation, Political Ideology, & Civic Engagement
- Political Parties, Interest Groups & the Media
- Foreign Policy
- Criminal Justice System

Resources

- *Building Citizenship: Civics & Economics* (McGraw Hill Education)
- *Heroes of 9/11* (Allan Zullo)

Course Grade:

The course grade will be computed on the basis of summative and formative assessments, including quizzes, in-class assignments, tests, and oral and written reports and projects.

60% of the grade is determined by summative assessments (tests, designated projects and writing assignments).

40% of the grade is determined by formative assessments (projects, in-class assignments and other learning activities).

Assignment Policy:

Assignments given in class are important and are not to be considered "busy work," but rather purposeful review of the day's lesson or preparation for an upcoming topic. Assignments are to be done accurately, completely and turned in at the assigned time. Assignments will NOT be accepted late. If the student would like to retake a summative assessment, ALL required work associated with the unit must be completed before they are eligible to retake the summative assessment.

Summative Assessments - Chapters/Units:

Summative assessments could take a variety of forms: tests, projects, writing assignments, etc. Summative assessments will typically be announced 5 days in advance. If a student is not present during a summative assessment, they will be expected to take it on the day they return. It is the STUDENTS responsibility to ask the instructor when the summative assessment should be completed. Summative assessments will be completed in written form or on the computer. Proper writing utensils and electronics will be required from the student to fulfill the task.

****Use of A.I. is strictly prohibited for completion of assignments and assessments unless directed otherwise.**

Retake Policy: (from Student Handbook)

Students will be allowed to retake summative assessments based on the following conditions:

1. All students will have the option to retake one (1) summative assessment per semester per class. (no banking/carry-over).
2. Students may retake an assessment only if they scored lower than 100%.
3. Students will be required to complete a teacher-designed retake learning plan prior to retaking a summative assessment. This process should be initiated *by the student* by completing this [Retake Learning Plan Form](#).
4. Retake learning plan components (e.g. completing missing work, additional assignments, test corrections) are not a substitute for the reassessment.
5. Upon completion of the retake learning plan, the student must sit for a reassessment which must be different in questions but equal in rigor. Teachers have discretion regarding what sections of the test the student needs to retake. Additionally, the structure of the reassessment may change (e.g. multiple-choice exam to essay or multiple-choice exam to student interview).
6. The higher score (original or retake) will be the documented grade in the teacher's grade book and the maximum score resulting from any retake is 100%.

Time and Responsibility Factors:

- Students are required to take initiative in their learning process in partnership with the teacher.
- The retake must be scheduled within 2 weeks from the day the original summative assessment was handed back to the student.
- Teachers may vary deadlines due to extenuating circumstances: student absences, schedule conflicts, inclement weather days, etc.

Important Notes:

- Midterm and final exams are not available for retakes.
- Due to the compacted nature of original credit summer school courses, assigned summative assessments are not available for retakes.

- Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment courses' summative assessments are available for retakes at the teacher's discretion. Any discretionary retake opportunities must follow the process outlined above.
- Assignments such as essays, research papers, multi-step projects, labs, and other performance assessments with multiple check-ins or assignments that have segmented due dates may not be available for retakes.
- Formative assessments are available for retake at the teacher's discretion. Such opportunities, if given to an entire class, should be consistent across all sections of a course.

****Academic dishonesty in any form is forbidden.** Any infraction of this rule will result in a "0" for the assignment and disciplinary action will be implemented.

Quizzes:

Most quizzes will be announced beforehand. If the student is not present for the quiz, they will be expected to make it up the day they return. It is the STUDENTS responsibility to ask the instructor when the quiz should be completed.

Attendance - Sick/School Function:

It is the STUDENTS responsibility to check Google Calendar and/or Google Classroom to see what assignments were missed.

Students should:

- Check Google Calendar (located on Google Classroom) to see what was missed.
- Go to Google Classroom to complete missing assignments.
 - ◆ If going away on vacation or school function, it is the STUDENTS responsibility to speak with the instructor ahead of time to properly prepare.

Classroom Expectations:

- Respect everyone and their property.
- Arrive to class on time
 - Third time late to class with no pass will constitute in a teacher detention
- Have a charged Chromebook
- NO electronic devices
 - Cell phones, air pods, earbuds, headphones, etc. must be put away in their personal bag from 7:55 am - 2:40 pm [Please view the Personal Electronics Policy and Procedure](#)