

**Social Science  
Syllabus  
Mr. Woods  
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**Civics is a semester-long course required for graduation.**

In Civics, students will learn what it takes to become a responsible, active, participating citizen of the United States. They will learn how our government, economic system and political system operate. They will outline the rights and responsibilities of American citizens as outlined in the foundational documents and other laws. Students will understand how civic dispositions such as civility, tolerance, and respect for law promote the healthy functioning of American constitutional democracy. They will understand the importance of the United States in the world political and economic system and will be able to explain the basic elements of the American economic (free-enterprise) system.

Objectives: Student will...

- Ø Analyze the foundations and development of American government in terms of principles and values.
- Ø Analyze the legal system within the United States in terms of the development, execution and protection of citizenship rights at all levels of government.
- Ø Analyze the concepts and factors that enable individuals to make informed financial decisions for effective resource planning.
- Ø Analyze the role of government and economic institutions in developing and implementing economic stabilization policies in the U.S.
- Ø Understand how democracy depends upon the active participation of citizens.

The grading scale is as follows: A = 90%; B = 80%; C = 70%; D = 65%. This scale applies to all assignments in this class. If more than 13 classes are missed, your grade may be dropped by one full letter grade.

Remember! You are High School Students so let's keep it honorable through mutual cooperation and respect.

**\*\*Class discussions:** Discussions of current events and other topics relevant to Civics will be a regular occurrence in class. There will be natural differences of opinion that occur during discussions. Students **MUST** respect the discussion process and concede that people WILL disagree. If a student becomes combative or is verbally attacking

another student during a class discussion, that student will be asked to leave class and will forfeit the opportunity to make up any assignment for that day..

## Units Covered:

### 1. We The People.

- Who are “We the People”
- Do American’s have a Civic responsibility?
- Should Americans be forced to serve in civic roles?

### 2. Why Do We Have Government in the First Place?

- A Life Without Government?
- What should the roles of Government be compared to what it is.
- What Changes Should be made?
- Big Government vs. Small government.

### 3. The US Political System

- Two Party System
  - Examine the difference between the parties.
- Interest Groups.
- “Elected” Representatives

### 4. Domestic vs. Foreign Policy

- What are each and how to they affect each other?
- The many areas of Domestic Policy
- The many areas that the two coincide
- Specific examples of the both Domestic and

### 5. The United States Constitution

- What is the Preamble, what does it say, and what does it mean?
- What are the three branches of government? Their roles and Responsibilities?
- What is Federalism?
- How should the Constitution be interpreted?
- The Bill of Rights
- The “Other” Amendments.

### 6. The Legislative Branch

- Roles and Responsibilities of the Legislative Branch in Depth

- Organization of the Legislative Branch
- The Powers of Congress
- How a Bill becomes a law

## 7. The Executive Branch

- The Presidency
- The Roles and Responsibilities of the President
- the Executive Departments: Each of their roles and Responsibilities
- The US Military

## 8. The Judicial Branch

- The Role of the Judicial Branch.
- “Equal Justice Under the Law”.?!
- The Federal Court System
- The Supreme Court
  - How it is organized
  - How it operates
  - Case Analysis

## 9. State Government

- Organization
- Roles
- Differences between Federal and State Government
- Pure State Powers
- Influence over local Govt.

## 10. Local Government

- Structure
- How their roles and responsibilities are different and similar to state and federal government.
- How many aspects of local government affect our daily lives.

## 11. The United States Economic System

- Concepts of Capitalism
- Governments role in the Economy
  - Specific Government Agencies that affect economic policy and outcome
- How Domestic Policy affects the Economy
- How Foreign Policy affect the Economy
- The United States Debt

- How it affects our economy
- How it affects our tax dollars