

Civics
Course Syllabus 2022-2023

Pacifica High School - Room 710
Instructor: Mrs. Li
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"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice and are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential." - Winston Churchill

Course Description and Goals

In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of humanities-based study to pursue a deeper understanding of American government. They will consider the role of and necessity for the government as they contemplate how much power the government should have over its citizens. Students will consider how the government can accomplish goals sanctioned by the majority while still protecting its citizens from the abuse of power. Students will expand their knowledge of the key elements of our representative form of democracy, such as the idea that the authority to govern resides in its citizens and the understanding that all citizens have certain inalienable rights. This course is the culmination of the civic literacy strand of history-social studies that **prepares students to vote, and to be informed, skilled, and engaged participants in civic life**; as well as the benefits of democracy resulting in an electorate **willing to compromise, practice genuine tolerance and respect of others, and actively engage in an ethical and civil society**. They'll discover that all **citizens have the power** to elect and change their representatives—a power protected by free speech, thought, and assembly guarantees. Through this course of study **students will be empowered to participate in the civic life of their community, state, and nation**, and the various ways that they can access and participate in the governing of their country.

For more, please see the [History Social Science Content Standards for CA Public Schools](#) and the [California History and Social Science Framework, Ch. 17 \(2016\)](#)

Units to be Discussed

<u>Unit 1</u> Foundations and Principles of American Government	<u>Unit 3</u> Political Parties and the Legislative Branch
<u>Unit 2</u> Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens in a Democratic Government	<u>Unit 4</u> The Executive Branch and Elections
	<u>Unit 5</u> The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties

Suggested Materials

1. eTextbook: Magruder's American Government (Hard copies and digital access will be provided)
2. A **college ruled, standard size spiral notebook (or binder if you prefer, with dividers)** just for this class
3. Blue or black pens, pencils, glue
4. Personal laptop/Chromebook/tablet device with internet access

Classroom Expectations

1. Be **RESPONSIBLE** by being ON-TIME with all your materials ready to learn. It is your responsibility to make up missed assignments and tests!
2. Be **RESPECTFUL** to all individuals in the class.
3. Be **DILIGENT** by putting 100% effort into all assignments.
4. Be **CONSIDERATE** by always using class supplies with care and leaving your work area clean before exiting the classroom.

CLASS PROCEDURES

Activity	Procedure		
Entering Class	- You must be in your seat BEFORE THE BELL or you will be considered late. Immediately Read Daily Objective, Agenda, and Homework from side board to get an idea of what we will be doing that day		
Notebook Organization BRING NOTEBOOK to class EVERY DAY!!!	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> - Table of Contents - Unit Objectives/ Vocab lists - Thinking maps - Pictures - Summaries - Practice Problems </td><td> - Guided Notes - Cornell Notes, including questions and summaries - Assignments </td></tr> </table>	- Table of Contents - Unit Objectives/ Vocab lists - Thinking maps - Pictures - Summaries - Practice Problems	- Guided Notes - Cornell Notes, including questions and summaries - Assignments
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Submitting assignments	- There will be a due date for each assignment. - points will be given to assignments regardless of completion. - Students will receive a stamp to indicate that I have checked their assignment and have given points.		
Returning From Absence	If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up all the missing work and do the following: - Check our google classroom/aeries - Collect any assignments from the MAKE-UP WORK bin (days are listed in the bin by the door.) - Ask a classmate what you missed. Copy notes, labs, and missing assignments you missed from another classmate. - If you were absent for one day you will have one day to make up the missing work. (excused absence only)		
Submitting Assignments Due to Absence	Forgetting to pick up papers the day you return from an absence does not excuse a missing assignment - Please talk to Mrs. Li to discuss options for missing work.		
Hall Passes	NOT the first 10 min or last 5 min of class - Not allowed during direct instruction/notes or exam One person at a time. Fill out a pass! - restroom, water, going to locker, tissue - Any reason to leave class during the period unless excused by teacher prior. - You are given 4 passes a quarter. USE THEM WISELY! You can receive EXTRA CREDIT for each unused pass at the end of the quarter!		

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Mobile devices must be placed in pocket holder upon entry into the class. THIS IS HOW I WILL TAKE ATTENDANCE. You will have access to a Chromebook as a classroom device.
 - a. **IF you choose NOT TO COMPLY, a conference with your parents/guardians is needed to discuss phone use and parameters of use in the classroom.**
 - b. There should be no personal device use in class UNLESS it was discussed with me PRIOR to use.
2. Earbuds/headphones will be confiscated if seen being used for anything other than class activities during class.
3. SAFETY/RESPECT: It is important for students to follow safety directions and respecting others in this classroom. Failure to do so may result in negative consequences to yourself or others. Your citizenship grade will be lowered if safety is violated in any way.

-----**Tear and return to teacher**-----

- ☐ I agree to the classroom cell phone policy and agree to follow it. I am aware of the consequences for violating the policy.
- ☐ I do not agree to the classroom cell phone policy and will participate in a follow up conference with my parents and teacher.

***Failure to follow up or attend the required conference will default to standard classroom policies and school campus policies,** including administrative referral and possible loss of cell phone privileges during the school day.

Please provide your best contact information - Email/Cell: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

CONSEQUENCES

1. Warning
2. Stay after class/ fill out **behavior reflection**.
3. Parent contact and school Detention
4. Parent Conference and Referral

CHEATING POLICY

CHEATING IS UNACCEPTABLE! If caught cheating, the student will receive a ZERO on the exam/assignment. Parents and school administration will also be notified. IF cheating continues, the student will receive an "F" for the grading period (see student handbook).

GRADING

Your total grade is based on the following:

Assignment Weight	Grade Scale
30% Summative (Exams, quizzes, projects)	90-100% = A (Advanced understanding) 80-89.99% = B (Proficient Understanding)
50% Formative (Notebook, content-graded assignments)	70-79.99% = C (Basic Understanding) 60-69.99% = D (Below Basic)
20% Participation (Preparedness, organization)	0-59.99% = F (Far Below Basic)

State Seal of Civic Engagement: On September 10, 2020, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted criteria and guidance to award a State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE) to California students who demonstrate excellence in civic education and participation, and an understanding of the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, and the democratic system of government. Students may begin working on the SSCE criteria in grade 9 and must meet all criteria by the end of the first semester in grade 12. Seals will be awarded in grades 11 or 12 and may be affixed to a diploma, certificate of completion, or transcript. Criteria include: Criteria 1: Academics, Criteria 2: Government Knowledge, Criteria 3: Civic Engagement, Criteria 4: Self-Reflection, and Criteria 5: Character. More information to come. Please see me if interested.

PHS Statement on Self-Advocacy: Our society values independence. By the time students reach their post-secondary goals, they are expected to have a certain level of self-advocacy and self-efficacy which has been fostered throughout their years of schooling. The end goal is student independence and empowerment.

Ownership and responsibility are two areas of the effort necessary to build this independence in students. In order to take ownership and responsibility, students must learn to communicate effectively with their teachers. If there is a situation that arises or complications occur that interfere with the success of your learning, please arrange a time to speak with your teacher. Express your concerns and a solution may be met to help alleviate any of your issues.

Citizenship Marks

Citizenship is part of the literacy you will learn in the History/Social Science department. This includes being a good citizen in our classroom, school, and civic communities as you interact with the course topics and with each other. The criteria for earning citizenship values are as follows:

O-Outstanding*

- The student shows respect for the ideas, opinions, property, and diversity of others and contributes to a positive school culture
- Is a positive role model, who leads quietly or outwardly
- Is always respectful of teachers and fellow students
- Works to improve the classroom atmosphere
- Takes an active part in class discussions, groups, etc.
- Is a self-starter and seeks to help others
- Completes all work to the best of their ability
- Demonstrates personal and academic integrity at all times
- Arrives on time and prepared - there and ready



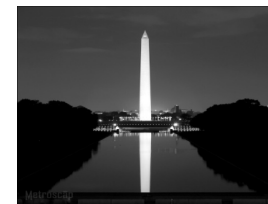
S-Satisfactory:

- Contributes positively to class
- Shows respect for others
- Comes to class prepared and on time
- Demonstrates personal and academic integrity
- Listens and talks when appropriate
- Does what is expected
- Willing to help others



N-Needs Improvement:

- Needs frequent reminders by the teacher to stay on task and/or behave appropriately
- Needs improvement in showing respect to classmates/teacher
- Sometimes comes to class unprepared and/or work isn't finished
- Distracts other students' learning
- Occasionally displays a negative or uncooperative attitude



U-Unsatisfactory:

- Is a negative/disruptive influence on the class
- Shows a lack of respect for teacher/fellow students
- Regularly comes to class unprepared and puts forth little effort
- Frequently tardy
- Demonstrates a lack of personal and academic integrity

***Required for any letters of recommendation, department awards, or content-specific diploma seals.**

Office Hours: Please utilize our tutorial schedule for any additional help that may be needed. Beyond tutorial, I am available BY APPOINTMENT only (form will be on Google Classroom). You may email any questions or schedule a meeting on campus at any time you feel it is needed. Students, don't wait until the last minute to ask for help, I am always here to aid in your success but not the night before it's due!