

SYLLABUS

CIVICS AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT COURSE Level 2, .50 CREDITS

Instructor: Mrs. C. Adajian “A Living History”

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CITIZEN!

This course is designed to provide our students with a practical knowledge, and understanding of our American government and its direct connection to them. Relevance to life is imperative for students to connect with the democratic behaviors and institutions as citizens of the United States. Students will be able to apply knowledge of the US Constitution and how the US system of government works and its impact on individual, local, state and national decisions; demonstrate knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as US citizens; demonstrate an understanding of political systems and their role in maintaining an orderly society; and demonstrate how international relations and world affairs affect their lives and the security and well-being of their community, state and nation.

UNITS OF STUDY

1. Connecticut State/Local Government
2. Foundations of American Government
3. Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities
4. Federalism

Civics and American Government is a required course for graduation.

Major Text: Magruder's American Government

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE LEARNER

Homework Expectations:

Homework should be handed in **on time**. Homework will be assigned daily and on weekends in preparation for or as a reinforcer of previously learned material. Assignments are expected to be submitted daily and completed with accuracy and neatness. Class preparation is an integral component of this course.

Skills: Emphasized:

Debate, research-based Internet searches, position papers, document analysis, mock public hearings, public speaking, court case analysis, cooperative learning, group work, reading for content and **participation in local government.**

COURSE SYLLABUS CIVICS AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUED:

Keeping it Real! Participation in Local Government:

Students are **required** to attend (1) local government board meeting, and stay for (1) hour or longer. They may do this alone or with a group. First, students must sign in at the board meeting if it is called for. Second, they are to return with any handouts distributed at the meetings. Third, students must (neatly) take at least (2) pages of notes. Fourth, students must make an oral presentation to the class. **All of the above must be completed two weeks before the end of the course.**

Civics and American Government Syllabus Continued:

Grading:

10%-homework

85%-essays, projects, position papers, document based questions, quizzes, tests, etc.

5%-participation (variable at times)

A final exam will be administered at the end of the course and will count as 10% of your final grade.

Please Note: 1 to 2 pts. can be gained as extra credit for the “Latest Scoop” Article Presentations relating to Civics and American Government. **All students will be required to present (1) article during the semester.**

It is the student’s responsibility to complete all assigned readings on time. Unannounced assessments can be given at any time.

Student Mandatory Requirements: Address Card

- 1. This week hand in pages of the Student Handbook to any teacher as soon as possible.**
- 2. Cover your textbook and bring to class daily.**
- 3. Purchase a three-ring binder with lined paper. Reserve a section for Civics.**
- 4. Bring a pencil, pen, and highlighter to class daily.**
- 5. Arrive to class on time.**

REMEMBER:

If at any time you are having difficulty, please see me immediately. I will gladly meet with you during or after school. Remember to set up an appointment with me to avoid any conflicts that you or I might have.

WISHING YOU A SUCCESSFUL, FUN SCHOOL YEAR!