

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics Course Outline

Welcome to 11<sup>th</sup> grade Civics. This is a course about government-and more particularly, about government in the United States. Over this course, you will consider the ways in which government in this country is organized, the ways in which it is controlled by the people, the many things that it does, and the various ways that it does them. My goal for you is to become better informed about the way our government works so that you may become an educated, productive member of our society upon graduation who will give back in some way to our great country.

### **Topics to be Covered**

- I. Foundations of American Government
  - A. Principles of Government
  - B. Origins of American Government
  - C. The Constitution
  - D. Federalism
- II. Political Behavior: Government by the People
  - A. Political Parties
  - B. Voter and Voter Behavior
  - C. The Electoral Process
  - D. Mass Media and Public Opinion
  - E. Interest Groups
- III. The Legislative Branch
  - A. Congress
  - B. Powers of Congress
  - C. Congress in Action
- IV. The Executive Branch
  - A. The Presidency
  - B. The presidency in Action
  - C. Government at Work: The Bureaucracy
  - D. Financing Government

- E. Foreign policy and National Defense
- V. The Judicial Branch
  - A. The Federal Court system
  - B. Civil Liberties: First Amendment Freedoms
  - C. Civil liberties: Protecting Individual Rights
  - D. Civil Rights: Equal Justice Under the Law
- VI. Comparative Political and Economic Systems
  - A. Comparative Political Systems
  - B. Comparative Economic Systems
- VII. Participating in State and Local Government
  - A. Governing the States
  - B. Local Government and Finance

## **Grading**

1. Tests count as 50% of your grade. Tests will be given every 1-2 weeks.  
Research papers and major projects will count as tests.
2. Quizzes count as 30% of your grade. Quizzes will be given at any time (announced and unannounced). Debates and small projects will also count as quiz grades.
3. Homework will be given at any time and counts as 20% of your grade.  
Journal entries also will count as homework grades. Homework answers that are exactly the same will be given zeroes.
4. Extra Credit will only be given if you have done your regular assignments first.

## **Make-up Work**

1. You are expected to turn in your assignments the day you return to school.
2. Quizzes must be made up upon return to school.

3. You have three days upon return to school to make up your test.
4. If you fail to turn in an assignment when it its due, you can still get half credit if you turn it in the following school day. Two school days late is a zero.

## Rules

1. Be on time. Students arriving late will be sent to the office for a late pass.
2. Bring a writing utensil (pen or pencil), your textbook, and journal every day.  
Please keep your book covered since these are fairly new textbooks.
3. Be respectful of your classmates and teacher. Disrespect will not be tolerated.
4. No foul language or racial slurs. Detention or ISS will be assigned.
5. No sleeping in class, no matter how boring I am. Detentions will be assigned.
6. Limit your bathroom breaks until after I am done with my lesson and don't make it a daily occurrence. **You will not be allowed to go without your pass! If you give me a pass not your own, I will sign it and still not let you go.**
7. Don't leave your seat at the end of the period until the bell rings of if I give you permission. **DON'T CROWD THE DOOR!** Detentions will be assigned.

I look forward to our time together and hopefully this class will encourage you to become a better American citizen.

I understand the rules and policies of Mr. Over's Civics class.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_