

Civics

2018-2019

Teacher: Mr. Allen

Room: 1-10

Email: allenj@putnam.k12.ct.us

Phone: 860-963-6905 x3110

My Availability:

I will be available after school on Tuesdays until 3:00. This is the day that I am most often available, but I will be available by appointment as well. If you **EVER** feel that you need extra support on an assignment, project, or paper, **PLEASE** let me know. I am here to help and am happy to do so.

Course Introduction

This course provides an analytical perspective into American government and politics. We will be covering the creation of the United States government, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the three Branches of government, local government, and more. The goal of this course is for you to leave with a deeper knowledge and understanding of the national government; and also for you to have a better understanding of your rights and responsibilities as a US citizen. Politics is also a large portion of the course. We will be discussing current events related to politics as well as the 2018 Midterm Elections, including Connecticut's Gubernatorial and Senate election.

Course Progression

- Unit 1: Basic Ideas About Government
- Unit 2: Foundations of American Democracy
- Unit 3: Elections, Voting, and Political Parties
- Unit 4: The U.S. Constitution
- Unit 5: The Bill of Rights

How to Succeed in Civics

Civics is going to be an exciting course. In order to succeed, you must participate in each and every lesson. It is important that you arrive to class on time and prepared to learn. Discussion is a staple of American government, and therefore, a staple within this class. It is important that you do the assignments. Respect is an essential part of how this class will function. In the nature of Civics discussion, controversial concepts or ideas may come up and it is imperative that we respect one another. Please ask if you ever need clarification on an assignment.

Guidelines

- Arrive to class on time
- Be prepared to learn
- Respect (Everyone and everything around you)
- You must participate and speak in class
- Help one another
- No plagiarism or cheating
- Stay in the classroom (Try to use the bathroom, go to the nurse, and go to guidance before or after class, otherwise you risk missing valuable class time)
- Ask for help if you need it!

Text Books:

Civics in Practice: Principles of Government and Economics

We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution

Materials:

You will need each of the following materials for class each day, they must be brought with you.

- Notebook: Spiral or 3-ring (This should be a Civics-specific notebook)
- Folder (Civics Specific)
- Pen (Blue or Black) or Pencil
- A student created Gmail that can be used for digital assignments

Grading Policy:

- Homework: 10%
- Classwork-30%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Tests and Quizzes: 25%
- Writing and Projects-25%

Late Policy

Homework and Class work are expected to be turned in on their due date. Work turned in after the due date (no longer than five days) will be given partial credit. After five days, work may not be accepted.

Make Up Work:

The school policy applies, but you should not fall behind in your assignments. If you are out of class, it is your responsibility to find out what work you are missing. Feel free to ask me about any assignment that you missed.

Tardies:

School Policy applies in my classroom:

- 1st Tardy: 5 Minute Detention
- 2nd Tardy: 10 Minute Detention
- 3rd Tardy: 15 Minute Detention
- 4th Tardy: 20 Minute Detention
- 5th Tardy: Office Referral

Speaking Requirement:

Speaking and participating in class is a large part of this course. This is part of our school-wide academic expectations (Rubric 2B), Common Core State Standards, and the C3 Framework (National Social Studies Standards). In order to be graded for oral presentations, debates, and discussions, students must give the presentation in front of the class, unless stated otherwise by the teacher.

Cell Phone Policy:

Students are to assume that cell phones must always be kept away at all times (in pocket or backpack). Students are not allowed to keep cell phones on desks. The only exception to this rule is when specific permission is given by the teacher. First offense will result in a warning. Second offense will result in the device being taken away for the remainder of class.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Let me know if you have any questions about the syllabus. Please fill out the following information so that I may best communicate with you about your child's performance in my class. After you have done that, please sign. By signing this syllabus you have acknowledged that you have read it.

Student Name: _____

Parent Email(s): _____

Parent Phone Number(s): _____

Preferred Method of Contact: _____

Is there anything that you would like me to know about how I can best teach your child?

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

**At any time, if you feel that you need to contact me,
please do not hesitate! I look forward to a wonderful
year.**

Thank you!