



# CIVICS

## Syllabus

Discovery Middle School  
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Madison, AL 35758

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<b>Course Description:</b>	<p>During the nine weeks of Civics, students explore the role of citizens in the United States. The curriculum addresses representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civil responsibility. Additional information for this course can be found on the Alabama Department of education website: <a href="https://alex.state.al.us/standardAll.php?ccode=CIV&amp;subject=SS2010&amp;summary=3">https://alex.state.al.us/standardAll.php?ccode=CIV&amp;subject=SS2010&amp;summary=3</a></p>
<b>Course Objectives:</b>	<p>Summarize the contributions of various historical influences and classify how each of these influences impacted the establishment of the American Government.</p> <p>Describe the influence of important philosophers on the U.S. political system.</p> <p>Compare and Contrast other forms of government with the U.S. government focusing on who has the power and how power is acquired/achieved.</p> <p>Explain the organization of state and local governments focusing on Alabama's state government.</p> <p>Differentiate between juvenile and adult laws, as well as between civil and criminal laws. Identify the protections given in the U.S. Bill of Rights.</p> <p>Describe the rights, duties, and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, as well as paths to citizenship.</p>

	Identify contemporary American issues since 2001.
<b>Classroom Expectations:</b>	<p>Classroom Rules and Procedures:</p> <p>Students should be respectful of everyone during class.</p> <p>Students must have a hall pass to leave class.</p> <p>Keep all electronic devices in your bag and turned off during class, unless they are being used for a class activity.</p>
<b>Textbook:</b>	Building Citizenship: Civics & Economics (ISBN: 0076601498)
<b>Grading:</b>	<p>Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.</p>
<b>Make-up Work:</b>	<p>Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit <u>previously</u> assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absences must be made up within a timeframe determined by the teacher. <b>It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences.</b> (DMS 2021-2022 Student Handbook)</p>
<b>Late Work:</b>	<p>For work turned in late, the following policy will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc.</li> </ul> <p>1 day late = maximum credit 89%</p> <p>2 days late = maximum credit 79%</p> <p>3 days late = maximum credit 69%</p> <p>4 days late = maximum credit 59%</p> <p>5-10 days late = maximum credit 50%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half credit is always better than no credit! Until work has been made up, "Missing" (which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated once work is completed and turned in.</li> </ul>

<b>Accommodations:</b>	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
<b>Turnitin Notice:</b>	<p>The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively - skills essential to all academic work.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.</p>
<b>Technology</b>	<p>Concerning laptop utilization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities.</li> <li>2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers.</li> <li>3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops.</li> <li>4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher and should be brought to school daily.</li> </ol>
<b>Materials and Supplies:</b>	<i>3 Ring Binder with paper, pen or pencil</i>

<b>9 Week Plan *Subject to Change</b>	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Unit</b>
<b>1</b>	Citizenship Unit
<b>2</b>	Citizenship Unit

<b>3</b>	Constitution Unit
<b>4</b>	Constitution Unit
<b>5</b>	Amendments Unit
<b>6</b>	Amendments Unit
<b>7</b>	Legislative Branch Unit
<b>8</b>	Executive Branch Unit
<b>9</b>	Judicial Branch Unit