

7th Grade Civics
Mr. Hoose
Rushe Middle School
2020-2021

Civics is the study and application of rights and responsibilities of citizens. In order to understand these rights and responsibilities, this course will include the study of government structures, historical content, economics, and the social as well as geopolitical influences of local, national, and worldwide governments.

Why study civics?

- To launch a lifetime of civic involvement.
- Create opportunities to practice responsible citizenship in our society.
- To impact the values, benefits, and merits of citizenship in our nation.
- To promote civil behavior and discourse.
- To encourage multiple perspectives.
- To develop student awareness of their role as global citizens.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW:

- Unit 0: Pre-content: Geography
- Unit 1: Citizenship
- Unit 2: Foundations of Government
- Unit 3: Sharing Power
- Unit 4: Active Citizens
- Unit 5: Going Global
- Unit 6: EOC Review
- Unit 7: American Economy and Geography

Textbooks:

Gateway to American Government and Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You.
This textbook is available to students and families online as a general resource.

Grading Policy:

Your quarter grade will be based on three areas:

Benchmark Assessments:

This category includes: Tests, projects, quizzes and notebooks checks. If you miss a benchmark assessment, you will be responsible for making it up.

The quiz portion of the Benchmark assessment category will include any quizzes given to determine how students are performing prior to benchmark unit assessments.

Students will be given unit tests to evaluate overall learning when units are completed. The evaluations may take the form of a written test, a research project, or some form of alternate assessment. This will enable students to demonstrate in various ways mastery and understanding of the material we have covered in class. Students who do not earn at least a 70% on an evaluation, MUST participate in a relearning and reassessment activity. ANY students may retake tests for a higher negotiated score.

Towards the end of each of the first three quarters, a quarterly check will be given based on the standards established for the quarter. These are district developed checks that will be used as an additional aid to determine standards that need extra emphasis by the student. This check will be graded based on the number of questions on the quarterly check.

Students will be keeping notebooks for the year. This will enable students to keep track of work and grades. Since students will be taking an end of course exam, it is important to maintain an orderly notebook for help in reviewing material.

Previewing and processing:

This category includes all classwork. Students will receive assignments in class that may require extra time for completion at home. When assignments such as these are given, they will be collected the next day unless otherwise stated. It is the student's responsibility to get work in on time. Work that is not turned in on time will be accepted up until progress reports and then again until the Friday before the last week of the quarter. (Turning in late work or not completing it, makes it very difficult to perform well on benchmark assessments.) Assignments that are missing will be reflected in the grade book with an "M" and will equal a zero. Work turned in late will also be noted in the gradebook. If a student is absent, ample time to make up any missing assignments.

End of Course Exam:

A state developed and administered End of Course Exam will be given in May. This exam is a test of students' understanding and application of standards covered throughout the year. The grade from this test, along with the two semester averages will determine the overall grade for the year. Because of the weight of this exam, it is imperative that students work very hard throughout the year and perform to the best of their ability while in class. It is recommended that students keep their papers from the beginning of the year until the end of the year, so that they can refresh their memory in preparation for the end of course exam. Time will be set aside prior to the exam for a thorough review of the material. A section of the class website is also designated for student prep work throughout the year. It has videos and questions for each of the tested benchmarks.

Progress:

Students and parents are strongly encouraged to check MyStudent regularly to keep abreast of academic progress. Grades will be updated weekly. Specific information related to this class can be found on the daily agenda page of this website.

Academic Integrity Policy: All work that a student submits will be the original and authentic work of the individual student unless otherwise specified in the assignment.

(<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssps/conduct/>)

Pasco County Grading Scale: (100% is the highest percentage allowed as a total quarter grade per Pasco County's Secondary grading principles and practices.)

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C

60-69 = D 59 and under = F

Students taking Advanced Civics in addition to the regular curriculum, will be involved in document based questioning activities, enhanced assignments, in-depth discussions and extension projects.

Supplies:

Composition Notebook (You may need several throughout the year and should be prepared should one get filled up or lost)

Colored Pencils

#2 pencils

Glue Stick

blue pen

red pen

highlighter

ear buds for use with the class ipads or your own device

A ream of copy paper (we won't use notebook paper)

Regular Work

Starters: Students will be required to complete daily "Starters" at the beginning of each class period. Starters will be due at the end of the week and will count as one weekly class grade. A few minutes at the beginning of each class will be used to complete this daily activity. Students will be expected to come into class and begin the activity right away. A weekly "Starter" sheet will be available in the makeup file for anyone who has missed class.. Starters will also be posted for the week on the class website. It is the responsibility of students to make up all "Starter" assignments.

Current Events: Each current event will count as a previewing/processing assignment. A detailed rubric will be provided along with guided instruction.

ABSENCES: When you are absent or expect to be absent it is *YOUR* duty to communicate with a classmate *FIRST* about work you may have missed or will miss and then email me *SECOND* with questions or to inform me of your progress. This is not only if you have not been able to come to school but if you miss class time due to sports, fine arts, or other responsibilities.

If you have missed any work, especially a quiz or test due to an excused absence, please be sure to make it up. A zero will be averaged in as the score until the assessment or assignment is no longer missing. Just because you have a zero does not mean that you cannot turn something in late or *NEGOTIATE* the terms of an assignment due to an absence or an unforeseen

Class Conduct and Expectations:

Common sense, respect, and kindness will be the guiding principles of the agreement that we will make together at the beginning of the year.

That agreement once put into place will be the guiding expectations for every member of our class.

Consequences to Reinforce Positive Behavior:

Students will be given a verbal reminder to stay on task.

Students who continue to be a distraction to the classroom setting will be given some type of consequence.

Parent contact will be made if teacher consequences have not improved inappropriate student behaviors.

Team impact meetings may be held with the student and administration.

I look forward to a great year with you and your child. I encourage you to stay abreast of what we are doing in class and your child's progress via MyPascoConnect. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,
Andrew Hoose
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(813) 346-1200

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Period _____

