

Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy Course Syllabus and Procedures

Teacher: Kayla Shelton

Location: Building 10, Room 28

E-mail: kshelton@beaufort.k12.nc.us or kayla.shelton@beaufortccc.edu

Telephone: 940-6346

Planning Period: 11:45am- 1:37pm

Course Information

The standards and objectives in the *Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy* course will provide students the opportunity to engage in intensive application of the skills, concepts, processes, and knowledge gained in previous social studies courses and prepare them to be college, career, and civic ready. Despite there being a different overall focus for each subsequent course, students will explore the content through the following lenses: inquiry; behavioral sciences; civics and government; economics; geography; and history. As students develop cognitively, these lenses become more focused based on the grade-level content and disciplinary thinking skills.

This course has been legislated by N.C. Session Law 2019-82, House Bill 924. Because the civics and government strand is an integral part of the vertical learning progression of each course, kindergarten through high school, students are expected to enter this course with a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of government and civic responsibility. This course provides students the opportunity for a deeper study of the governmental and political systems of the N.C. and the U.S. and will build upon the application of the Founding Principles as identified by N.C. Session Law 2019-82, House Bill 924. This course will allow students to examine the ways in which power and responsibility are both shared and limited by the U.S. Constitution and how the judicial, legal, and political systems of North Carolina and the United States embody the founding principles of government. Students in this course will analyze and evaluate the extent to which the American system of government guarantees, protects, and upholds the rights of citizens. Through the integration of inquiry-based learning, students will also investigate how the American system of government has evolved over time while learning how to analyze topics, issues, and claims in order to communicate ideas and take action to effect change and inform others. When opportunities can be provided, this course can be augmented by related learning experiences, both in and out of school, that enable students to apply their knowledge and understanding of how to participate in their own community and governance. Mastery of the standards and objectives of this course will inform and nurture responsible, participatory citizens who are competent and committed to the core values and founding principles of American democracy and the United States Constitution.

North Carolina Essential Standards

Civics: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nNiyh602Q81q2NfAZbH00QHdho5hgqtM/view>

Required Materials

The course will rely primarily upon online textbooks, websites and primary source documents. Other source materials may be used throughout the semester as determined by the teacher. Students will have regular assigned readings and are expected to be prepared for class on a daily basis.

Required Materials for Students to Bring to Class:

- 3 ring binder or folder to keep returned papers
- College Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- Highlighters
- Headphones
- **CHARGED** computer

Grading Policies

The following percentages will be used to determine each student's grade:

- Tests & Projects: 40%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Classwork/ Homework: 30%

Assignments: All assignments will be posted and submitted through Google Classroom. All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the date that it is due unless otherwise noted. Late assignments or assignments not submitted through Google Classroom will not be scored. In the event of an absence, the student must receive an excused note in order to make up missed assignments. For excused absences, students will have a total of five days to submit missing work. After five days the assignment will be scored as a zero. Assignments completed in Google after 11:59 pm will be scored as a zero because it is late. Make-up assignments not submitted within five days will be scored a zero. **Any assignments submitted with no name, will not be accepted.**

- **Graded Assignments:** This includes both classwork and homework assignments that are graded. These assignments may be made up within five days of an absence if the absence was excused.
- **Quizzes:** Students will take a weekly review quiz based on course content covered for the week. All quizzes will be taken in the classroom. Students will also take a vocabulary quiz per unit. You will receive a list of vocabulary terms at the start of a unit and quizzes will be on review day before unit assessments. Your quizzes will be on a random assortment of words from the list. Missed quizzes due to unexcused absences can not be made up and will be scored a zero. Missed quizzes with an excused absence should be made up within five days of the absence. It is your responsibility to schedule a time to make these up either before or after school.
- **Major Assessments:** Students will take several tests throughout the semester, each coming at the end of a unit of study. All tests will be taken in class. You will be provided with study materials and know the date of the assignment at the start of a unit. It is the student's responsibility to come and schedule a time with me to make up missed tests. If you have an excused absence, you will have five days to submit your assignment upon your return to class. If your absence is unexcused your grade will be a zero for the assessment.

Integrity: I mostly value **INTEGRITY AND HONESTY**. Students are bound by the academic integrity policy established by Beaufort County Schools as stated in the Student Code of Conduct. I expect students to complete their own assignments. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and the use of AI to complete assignments, will not be tolerated. **This includes using AI to complete assignments or sharing answers with other students or copying information from a source such as the textbook or Internet.** You may not "work together" on assignments, including homework, unless the assignment is a group activity. If I catch you copying or cheating on any assignment, it is an automatic zero for all involved and disciplinary action will be taken.

Tutoring Availability

I will be available for tutoring on Mondays of each week from 3:00 pm- 4:00 pm. If you need tutoring assistance outside of this time, you should meet with me to schedule tutoring. Students are always welcome, I just ask that they inform me of when they would like to stay to receive additional assistance with any class material or assignments.

Classroom Policies and Procedures

1. **Dress Code Reminders:** You should have your orange lanyard AND your ID tag on whenever you get to campus. Failure to have both will result in a referral. Make sure that if you have holes in your jeans that if it is above the 3 inch mark, you should have something on underneath. Shirts must be long enough- there should be no visible skin when standing or sitting. Skirts, dresses, shorts, etc. must be no shorter than three inches above your knees. If you come to school out of dress code you will receive a referral and will have to call home to get a change of clothes.
2. Make sure that you are in your assigned seat with your materials out and working on the starting activity when class is supposed to begin. If you are up and talking and not where you are supposed to be, you will be marked tardy for class. Excessive tardies will result in disciplinary action.
3. Be respectful of yourself, your peers, your teacher, and your school. In order to receive respect you must give respect. I will NOT tolerate disrespect. If I am talking or teaching, I expect you to be listening and not talking.
4. Speak politely (no vulgar or profane language) and respectfully (no insulting others).
5. Restroom breaks will be given on a limited basis, unless you have a doctor's note. If you need to use the restroom outside of the scheduled class time, you should sign out using the bathroom sign out sheet. Ask permission before leaving the classroom to use the restroom. Try to avoid being out of class in the first 15-20 minutes of class.

6. Do not pack up or leave the classroom until I instruct you to do so. Before anyone leaves the classroom, it must be neat and tidy. Be respectful to my classroom and me by keeping it neat and clean.
7. No food, gum, or drink is allowed in class, except for plain bottled water.
8. Beaufort County Early College policy forbids the use of cell phones from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. If I see a cell phone, they will be confiscated and your parent/ guardian will have to make arrangements to come pick it up. They should not be on the tables or in your seat or visible in any way. There will be no headphones and no music in class unless given permission and you are watching instructional videos provided. Air pods/ headphones should be removed prior to entering the classroom. Likewise, watches should not be utilized for texting during class. Failure to abide by these rules will result in confiscation of the device and a parent will need to pick them up.
9. You should not be playing games of any kind during class time or working on assignments for any other class during my class unless given permission. Any games or unrelated videos/ websites will result in a referral for misuse of technology. Any instance of AI to complete assignments in any way will result in a zero for the assignment and you may be required to use a classroom computer.

Units of Study: The following outlines the key concepts and topics that will be addressed this semester. It is designed to be flexible. Exact days per unit have not been set.

Unit 1: Influences and History of American Government

Unit 2: The U.S. Constitution

Unit 3: The Legislative Branch

Unit 4: The Executive Branch

Unit 5: The Judicial Branch

Unit 6: American Legal System

Unit 7: Civic Responsibility and Voting

Unit 8: Civil Rights

Final Exam