



Civics: Global Citizenship 2017-2018

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Office A311(hours by appointment)

Periods 2 & 9 (C207)

Course Description

Civics: Global Citizenship is a course designed to help students acquire the skills and knowledge to prepare them to be responsible global citizens. The course will focus on government institutions, discussions of current and controversial issues, simulations of the democratic process and service learning. Students will work together democratically while experiencing real-world learning and relevant connections to our community.

Course Targets

Civics has three core course targets:

- A) Students will be able to DART (Dissect, Analyze, Recognize, Transform) systems.
 - Students will be able to use a systems map to dissect and recognize the components of a system
 - Students will be able to create their own systems map for new problems
 - Students can identify areas of systems where transformation may be necessary/is possible
 - Students will be able to effectively communicate multiple POV, both verbally and in writing
- B) Students will use social sciences to expand their understanding of the forces that shape civil society.
 - Students will demonstrate their understanding of civil society by DARTing issues through different disciplinary lenses.
- C) Students will study and practice individual and collective problem-solving skills to maintain and transform systems.
 - In groups and individually, students will have to apply the strategies/theoretical frameworks that have been used over the semester to a new problem

Expectations & Communication

- It is important that you stay organized and keep track of your assignments in a daily planner (paper or electronic). You should also track your grades by checking IC regularly. If you notice any discrepancies or mistakes, please alert me immediately and provide the returned assignment with the accurate grade.
- You are responsible for getting class notes and assignments when you are absent. Please check the class website for links or documents you need to access and for assignments you may need to ask me about.
- I am always eager to help you outside of class. Please make an appointment with me by speaking with me in class, calling or sending an email (my contact info is at the top of this syllabus). I try to return all emails and phone calls within 24 hours and welcome parent and student contact.

Grading Policy

Grades are compiled cumulatively for each semester and are based on the following categories:

- 50% Summative Assessments: Critical Thinking and Analysis - Systems Maps and Reading Comprehension/Content Acquisition
- 20% Community Engagement: Class discussion, participation and feedback during class activities
- 15% Completion of Classwork and Homework (Professionalism)
- 15% Final Exam/Project (comprehensive examination of our semester's work)

Student growth and achievement in these areas will be visible in student feedback and through Infinite Campus grades. Work must be completed on time as late assignments hinder your success and the success of your peers in our class. Extra time requests are usually granted when requested in advance and are reasonable and rare.

Students will also be required to demonstrate their knowledge, application and evaluation of Civics throughout the semester. Tests/Summative Assessments will be given at the end of each unit or sub-unit. Quizzes/Formative Assessments may be given throughout each unit.

Any class is an academic community formed around discovery and discussion, but the strength of that community resides in our relationships. Students should plan to be an active part of class; commitment to the work will make the class more meaningful. Community engagement points include being on time and prepared for class, interacting during discussions and activities, and completing (on-time) class work. Late-work penalties will be deducted from this grade category.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Reading

Reading is fundamental to any college preparatory course, and to a reflective life. While I do not expect you to be an expert after completing class readings, I do expect you to complete all assigned readings before we meet for class. Read critically and, if necessary, several times. Ask questions of me and your colleagues, in and out of class.

You may find that your assigned readings in this course appear heavy at first glance. Remember, our class meets only 3 days a week for 42 minutes, and once for 72 minutes. This necessitates consolidating the discussion of reading materials into a short amount of time. Therefore, some of the learning and thinking, as in any class, must take place outside of the classroom. Please know that we can work together to help you balance your overall school workload - just let me know if/when you would like to discuss this option.

Participation: Attendance and Preparation

Regular attendance, proper preparation, and participation are expected of all students. Your success in this class largely depends on your active participation. Participation means coming to class prepared, raising questions and presenting topics for discussion, adding relevant commentary to a class session, and active involvement during debates and all assignments. Accordingly, please feel free to offer commentary and ask questions during class. If necessary, I will call on students in class to do this. In addition, a large portion of this class will be dedicated to group-work, and your group can't be successful without significant contribution from each member.

Required Materials

We will be using many different required print and online sources in this class. You will be able to access many of these through your school-issued Chromebooks. These resource will help us with background reading, research, critical thinking, and more.

In addition to your Chromebook, you need to bring with you to class daily a three-ring binder or a folder **for this class only** (it will be collected periodically) to store handouts and all work returned to you (referring to feedback from previous assignments is required), loose-leaf paper, and pen, pencil, highlighter.

Chromebooks and other devices will be used only during times designated by the teacher., when they will have a positive impact on learning. If you or your teacher determines that a digital device is too distracting for our learning purposes, you may be issued alternative learning tools, such as a textbook, handout, or packet. This is not punitive, but rather a reminder to all of us that digital devices are tools, not the goal of education.

Other Policies

I follow school policies. Please refer to the student planner for information about cell phones, dress code, etc.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism, cheating, forgery and lying cannot be tolerated in a community of intellectual growth and inquiry. While our era of rapidly changing technology certainly provides new avenues and greater opportunity for plagiarism, it remains a serious academic and ethical offense. Any time you are having trouble with the class or are concerned about your progress or an assignment, please contact me immediately. Help is available...always take the initiative to ask. Academic Dishonesty consequences may include losing credit for an assignment, having to redo an alternative assignment and having a behavior referral.

Problems and Help

If you encounter difficulties with the material, are struggling with commitments, or are generally concerned about your performance in our course, please see me before the problem becomes severe and impacts your grade. I am here to help you. If you do not let me know of any problems or issues with the material, I can only assume that you are satisfied with your performance and do not have questions or concerns.

I am looking forward to working with you this semester!

SYLLABUS SIGNATURE PAGE

2017-2018

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It is important to me that you read over your syllabus and sign your name as a commitment of understanding. The signing of your signature should not be done without thought—rather, your signature means that you understand and agree to all of the information on the syllabus, including, but not limited to, the expectations for participation, grades, and supplies you are expected to have with you in class.

Please be sure to share the syllabus document (on the class website) with your parents/guardians before they sign below.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I understand the expectations of this class

Student Name (please print) _____

Period _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____