



Law & Civics - Course Syllabus

Mr. Washbond, Social Studies
Wamogo Regional High School
2015-16



Every high school student is required to take a course in Civics in order to graduate. What is so important about this subject, anyway?

For starters, being an informed citizen allows you to be a more active member of society. It is important to not only be aware of what is happening in our national government, but in our state and local government as well. By learning about the structure and processes in each level of government, it will be easier to understand and follow current events, as well as evaluating historical changes to our government over the years. We will also be spending time focusing on voter registration, community service and volunteer work. You are the future of our country - get involved and stay informed!

Units of Study

During the 2015-2016 school year, we will cover the following units of study, with the aid of our textbook, in this order:

1. What are Laws and Civics?
2. Comparative Governments and Economies
3. The US Government – Constitutional Articles and the Bill of Rights
4. Political Parties
5. Judicial Branch: Law & Order
6. Connecticut Government
7. Connecticut Local Government
8. Is There a Global Citizen?

Grading

Grading in this course will be based on a weighted percentages system. The grading value breakdown is as follows:

Interim Assessments (Quizzes, Blog Entries, Short Projects) - 35%

Summative Assessments (Tests, Long-Term Projects, Essays, Speeches) - 65%

Final Course Grade = Quarter 1 Grade - 45%, Quarter 2 Grade - 45%, Final Exam - 10%

Notice of assignments/assessments will be given well in advance. Rubrics will be attached to all essays and projects to display point distribution for the corresponding assignment.

Homework

In this course, homework will primarily consist of blog entries, reading, watching videos, working on projects, and studying. You may have noticed that homework is ungraded. You are high school students, many of whom are upperclassmen, and homework is your responsibility. It is ultimately your choice whether or not you complete your homework. However, it will be difficult to effectively participate in class activities or discussions if you are unprepared for class. There will also be tasks in class that are directly related to the previous night's homework. Make the right choice!

Tardiness and Absences

With regards to tardiness and absences, WRHS rules and consequences apply. If you have an excused absence, you have that number of days to make up the assignment or take the owed test or quiz. If you have an unexcused absence, your work will automatically be considered late.

Supplies

Essential supplies for this class include a notebook/binder with loose-leaf paper, a pen or pencil, and a folder. You will also be using your electronic device with Internet access (laptop preferred) regularly. I will be making an effort to use as little paper as possible to make this a “green” class! That being said, always be sure to have your pencil/pen and paper handy in case technology is not cooperating.

Class Rules

In our class, all school-wide WRHS rules apply. Additionally, our classroom will have an environment where mutual courtesy and respect allows everyone to contribute in class with feelings of comfort and safety. Any infraction on this rule is inexcusable and will be responded to with an appropriate consequence. Additionally, please keep your phone silent and out of sight during class. I will politely ask you once to put it away. If there are further incidents or lack of cooperation, administration will be contacted.

Our class will be more than a period of time in our day. It will be a period of interaction, questioning and, overall, fun with the presented material and members of the class. At any point, if you need to communicate with me out of class, please feel free to address me before class, after class or stop me in the hall. I am based in **Room 102** in the middle school wing for most of the day if you need to come speak with me. If your parent/guardian needs to contact me, I can be reached by phone at [\(860\) 567-7410, extension 153](tel:8605677410) or by email at zwashbond@rsd6.org. Let's have a great semester together!