

Honors Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy
Course Syllabus
Currituck County High School
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Welcome!

Honors Civics covers the course material in greater complexity, acceleration and/or pacing, and reflects a differentiated curriculum. Honors students should learn to express and defend their ideas while learning to accept constructive criticism with maturity.

In order to excel, students need self-motivation and a strong work ethic. Students should expect frequent reading homework and are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading in detail. Class time is devoted to student-generated discussion of the reading, not teacher “explanation” of the text.

I will incorporate opportunities for students to become reflective thinkers who possess the potential to put their learning and accomplishments into useful practice. I also hope to explore areas of interest within the designated course of study that have real-life meaning.

Course Description:

The purpose of studying Civics is so that the student will be able to learn the skills and knowledge that are necessary to become a better-rounded citizen. Students will be encouraged to think critically, to make decisions and to reason clearly. They will be expected to locate and use varied sources of information. Information obtained in this class is extremely important for any United States History Course.

Chromebook: Each student is expected to bring their Chromebook to class fully charged and ready to use.

Binder: Each student will need a 2 inch binder with dividers to keep all notes and important papers properly organized. Textbooks and other outside reading materials will be used. Those who fail to read, take notes and keep organized will struggle in class.

Textbooks: All students will be given a Civics textbook. Please return it in the condition that it was received.

Homework: Homework will be assigned. It must be turned in to me on the day it is due. If homework is assigned, please be prepared for a possible quiz or assignment on the same information the following day. Please check Google Classroom for homework assignments.

Current Events/Blog: In addition to class work, students will be required to blog about a current event. A current event article will be issued each week. The student must post their response on the class blog each week before Friday at midnight. Each article is worth 10 points, for a possible score of 100. **This grade will count as a test score.**

Tests/Quizzes: There will be several tests and quizzes given throughout the year. Students will be required to compose responses to short answer questions on class tests and on the state issued final exam. All tests will be collected and kept by the teacher.

Final Exam: Students in Honors Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy will take a teacher made final exam at the end of the semester. This exam will account for 20% of your final grade.

As recognition for good attendance and academic performance, a student with an A average and no unexcused absences will be exempt from final exams in courses which do not require state exams. A student with a B average and no more than two excused absences during the semester will be exempt from final exams in courses which do not require state exams. Students with unexcused absences will not be eligible for this provision. Students will not be exempted from EOC tests or CTE PostAssessments.

Grading Policy:

Tests	50%
Quizzes	30%
Daily Assignments	20%

10 Point Grading Scale:

A	Superior	90-100
B	Good	80-89
C	Average	70-79
D	Poor	60-69
F	Failing	59 and below

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken every class period. Being tardy to class is unacceptable. Every third unexcused tardy will result in a day of PIT. Any student who is tardy on a regular basis will be assigned to the PIT each time they are tardy.

Policy Code: 4400 Attendance

Excused Absences

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the front office within two days after the student returns from an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a health care practitioner. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the local health officer or the State Board of Health or isolation or quarantine that is a required state or local control measure; 4400 4400 1 of 4
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. attendance at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if the student is party to the action or under subpoena as a witness;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent or legal guardian with approval by the principal. The approval

of an absence of more than two cumulative days may be granted unless the religious observance or the cumulative effect of religious observances is of such duration as to interfere with the student's educational program. The student will have the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to the excused absence for a religious observance;

7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal;

8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary;

9. a minimum of two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not identified as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences and the student's parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting; or

10. any other reason as approved by the board in a board resolution.

Course Expectations:

Classroom Expectations:

1. Strive to succeed everyday!
2. Respect yourself and others around you.
3. Be in your seat and prepared for class when the bell rings.
4. Dismissal will be by the teacher-NOT the bell.
5. No food or drink.
6. Be sure to bring the following materials to class everyday (when we return) :
 - Chromebook
 - Textbook
 - Binder with dividers
 - A writing utensil (pen or pencil)
 - Highlighter pens
 - Flashcards

Hall Pass Policy: Students may not leave class during the first and last 15 minutes of class time. Any student wishing to visit any area of the High School during class hours must have my approval and use the E-Hallpass system.

School Rules: All School Rules will be enforced in the classroom. Failure to comply with these rules may result in an office referral.

State Rules: Civics is required of all students who wish to graduate in North Carolina. All students are encouraged to get off to a good start and stay focused.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices: Per school policy, the use of cellular phones, i-watches, and earbuds are not permitted during instruction in all classes. If the use of cell phones becomes a problem in class, I will collect all cell phones and lock them in a secure location. If you disregard this policy disciplinary action will be taken.

Chrome Books will be used regularly in class. Your internet activity will be monitored and misuse of your device will also result in disciplinary action.

Make Up Work/Late Work: When a student returns from an absence, they should complete any missing assignments. Tests and quizzes will be taken immediately upon their return to class. Makeup work is the student's responsibility. Students who have been absent will not be penalized so long as they complete the work within three days of their return to school. However, students who simply choose not to complete an assignment by the due date will not get credit.

Parent Communication: Parents can check on their child's grade at any time using Power School. This is an online tool that allows you to view my grade book at your convenience. Moreover, progress reports are handed out every 4½ weeks or upon request with enough notice given. These reports include missing tasks as well as the student's current grade in the class and on each assignment. Parents may call me at (252) 453-0014 ext. 3032. Parents may also contact me for an electronic progress report at jblume@currituck.k12.nc.us to get an update.

Honor Code: All assignments are given with the understanding that each individual will complete that assignment in an honest manner. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic grade of "0" for that particular assignment. Actions in terms of discipline will be assessed individually. ***Group Work*** means just that – everyone in the group contributes, and all group members are responsible for understanding the information.

Club Time: Students will be permitted to attend clubs on full day Fridays only if they have a grade of 70 or higher in all classes. Students must check in with me before they report to their club.

Course Structure: Each unit usually consists of several chapters. Each unit is tested at least once.

Course Outline:

Weeks 1-3: Foundations of American Government and Citizenship

Weeks 4-7: The Constitution and our National Government

Weeks 8-10: The Evolution of Individual Rights and Government Policy

Week 11-12: The Tarheel State

Weeks 13-15: Influencing Government: Elections, Political Parties, the Media and Interest Groups

Weeks 16: Economics

Weeks 17-18: Exam review & Administration

Teacher Responsibility

I am excited about a new year and a new semester. Today is a new beginning for students as they start the new school year. I will work to make this the best year yet. My pledge is to partner with you to make this happen. Please feel free to get in touch with me any time you have a concern or a question.

Honors Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina:
Civic Literacy Fall 2023 Syllabus

You may keep the syllabus for future reference. Please return this page signed and dated by Friday, September 1st 2023.

STUDENT: I have read this syllabus, and understand it.

Student's Name:_____

Student's Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I have read this syllabus, and understand it.

Please indicate your preferred method of contact.

Parent/Guardian Name:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Parent/Guardian Phone number:_____

Parent/Guardian E-mail:_____

Date:_____

Below you may provide any other pertinent information that you feel would be relevant.