



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics Course Syllabus

Mr. Jose Ortiz

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In this course students will study the fundamental philosophies and organization of the US Government. Special emphasis will be placed on the concept of political power; what it is, who has it and how it is used. This course will also use government current events as a vehicle for understanding the key political issues facing our nation and state along with the role Media plays in our national political dialogue. We will also focus on why and how events happened, including who, when, and where. Students will see why events are important and what impact they have on the world today.

Students will incorporate technology by using their iPads to search for current events, resources, and online readings. The student will also learn to outline basic chapter facts. Information from class discussion, notes from the textbook and other primary sources will be assimilated to ensure understanding.

Assessments will be based upon the understanding of civil responsibilities, government working and concepts. In each chapter, a series of sections will be read, discussed and reviewed. Students will then have an action item known as "Citizenship Skills" and "Debating the Issues" which will require effort outside the class textbook. Afterwards, a quiz will be administered followed by a review game. Students will take a test or create a project for assessment of the material from the chapter.

### Course Content

- Citizenship
- Federal Government
- State and Local Government
- Economics
- Legal System
- The United States and the World

### Recommended Resources:

Online record of every school day with class objective, resources, eBook and homework

The texts and references we will use this year will include the following:

- Prentice Hall Civics Government and Economics in Action
- Prentice Hall Civics Reading and Vocabulary Study Guide

### Assessment

The teacher will use a variety of methods to assess students' understanding of course materials including:

- Objective Quizzes/Informal Assessments
- Multiple Choice/Short Answer/ Essay Tests

- Class Projects/Reports
- Class Participation
- Homework

### **Grade Breakdown**

Homework 10%  
Tests/Projects 50%  
Quizzes 25%  
Classwork 15% (includes participation, class assignments, & mini projects)  
**Total 100%**

### **Classroom Procedure**

You must arrive to class on time and prepared with your iPad, Civics Workbook, pen/pencil, textbook, and homework. All assignments submitted must be in pen/pencil, or 12 pt. Times New Roman double-spaced if typed. All current chapter materials must be kept in your folder. Put your name on all submitted work.

### **Homework**

Submit homework on time. Assignments will be checked at the beginning of each class in which they are due and a mark will be given based on completeness and quality. No mark will be given if the homework is not completed for the beginning of each class. Marks will be deducted for late assignments – 20 points after one day. Assignments handed in two or more days late will not be accepted. Messy assignments will not be accepted.

### **Achievement**

How successful you are in this course depends on you. To some extent, the grading of your work will reflect this view. Everything counts: respect, class participation, daily homework, class assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, organization and neatness.

If you are having trouble understanding the work or requirements of an assignment, please see the teacher. Make sure you do this before the assignment is due.

### **Contact Information**

Email: jose.ortiz@nlcinc.com

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Conference Time: 2:40 pm - 3:30 pm