

"It is not only what you know but how you learn that will set you apart."

~Thomas Friedman

During the course of the year you will learn something about yourself, all the while improving yourself: maturing academically, intellectually, deliberately, and creatively. This is the ultimate purpose of this class.

The information you will be responsible for learning has to do with the reasons for government, the functions of a government, and how a government is organized. Specifically, the beginnings of the United States Government are important to know and understand as well as the roles, rights, and responsibilities of an United States citizen. An important part of your experience this year involves active participation in our political system. **All Students will be required to participate & complete a Project Citizen Class Project per SLCSB's requirement. PC Projects** are introduced & explained in class, has teacher guidance and will have several components to be done at home.

Expectations

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing."

~Abraham Lincoln

- Your **full** commitment to mastering the material/content.
- Your **full** participation (prepared for class daily, completed assignments in/out of class, readings, discussions, prompt attendance)
 - **Required supplies:**
 - (2) 2-Pocket Folders (1 Red / 1 Blue) AND 2 Composition Books (no spirals)
 - Pencils, Erasers, handheld pencil Sharpener, and Blue/Black pens / Pencil Pouch for neat storage
 - 2+ packs of Notebook Paper, 1 pack of Index Cards (100ct – 3x5 ruled/lined)
 - Colored Pencils, Highlighters, Glue sticks, and 1 roll of scotch tape
 - Box of Kleenex tissues AND Chlorox *or* Baby Wipes,
 - USB Storage Device (to be used among all classes & for the save/transfer of data/work)
- Ms. Armas will maintain a web page, please refer to it for past and current weeks' content, activities, reading, assessments, etcetera. <<http://ArmasClass.weebly.com> / Follow me on *Twitter*: [@ArmasClass](https://twitter.com/ArmasClass)
- Open and respectful communication with your peers and Ms. Armas. Functional relationships are built on trust, respect, and talking to one another... I am here to help you be your best.
- Any and all portions of this syllabus may be changed at anytime by Ms. Armas ~ reasonable notice will be given.

Texts

Center for Civic Education. We the People- The Citizen and the Constitution. 2007

Center for Civic Education. Project Citizen. 2008.

Civics in Practice. Holt McDougal. 2012

Assessment

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right."

~Henry Ford

Grades will reflect an assessment of the mastery of the content and necessary skills and based predominantly on your performance. A varied means of assessment may include but are not limited to:

- **Journals:**
 - Daily - Students are required to have a composition notebook for daily journal entries. A topic will be posted on the board at the beginning of class and a paragraph must be written on the topic. These journals are to remain in the classroom and will be graded weekly. *DO NOT TAKE HOME*
- **Essay Questions:** ("*Free Response*" & "*Document / Data Based Questions*") (**DBQ**)
 - Bi-weekly basis - (as proficiency improves so will the frequency); you will also be actively grading each other's essays as a means of proficiency via constructive criticism; each essay will have a rubric
- **Primary Source Analysis Sheets & Historiography Analysis:**
 - Bi-weekly basis - this is a means of clarifying previous readings and introducing new material, in addition to improving the filtering out of bias and recognizing context and point-of-view; an excellent means of summarizing material;
 - Quarterly - analytical & evaluative discussions, at a minimum, of secondary literature relevant to the unit and the themes (*includes critical analysis of audio, video, photography, fine art, texts, maps, etc.*)
- **Presentations:** (*group/individual*)
 - Weekly - ideal for complex issues relating to the given theme, be it: comparisons; mapping; analysis; point-of-view; creating unique presentations; (*overhead, projector, computer, poster paper, etc.*)
- **Projects:** (*group/individual*) (*audio/video, overhead, computer aided, tangible objects*)
 - Quarterly - ideal for larger complex issues of long term change, patterns, and diversity of interpretations; creating unique projects of critical analysis of material to be determined with the consent of the teacher
- **Class Discussion:** (*participation*)
 - Daily - consists of individual response and/or Socratic style discussions to stimulate quick-thinking skills and require you to logically and convincingly defend a position while recognizing a diversity of interpretations
- **Mapping skills:** (*political, physical, chronological, comparisons, conceptual*)
 - Weekly/Daily - to be kept in Red Folder, will consist of various maps intended to clarify & visualize the info presented

- **Project Citizen:** (in lieu of History Fair)
 - Year-long Class Project – choose topic to explore in greater detail in class; several steps that will be individually assessed and contribute to your class grade, above and beyond the final project grade. *Details are forthcoming *

Grading Policy:

- Assessments: 35%** {Tests, quizzes, evaluations, etc }
- Class work: 25%** {Group and individual assignments, etc. }
- Projects: 20%** {Project Citizen Portfolio check point dates, final project grade, presentations, reports, etc }
- Participation: 10%** {Journals, classroom discussion, group cooperation, etc. }
- Homework: 10%** {Research tasks, Current events, completion of assignments, etc. }

**Midterm & final exams – account for 20% of a student’ GPA an all academic classes and could possibly be projects and/or other forms of assessment rather than paper pencil exams.*

****Extra credit assignments will not be given****

Academic Honesty Policy:

Violations of “academic honesty policy” includes willful or deliberate unauthorized use of the work of another person for academic purposes, or inappropriate use of notes, or other material in the completion of an academic assignment or test. In addition to disciplinary responses, the granting of credit for this assignment may be considered null and void.

Skyward:

I will make every attempt to input grades into Skyward within five school days of the assignment being submitted to me by the student. Checking your status on a regular basis is strongly encouraged. If parents need contact me, send a note or send me an email. You can also call the school but it will take a little longer for me to respond. Please keep your contact information updated so that the school can contact you when necessary. The Family Access Portal has many options for Parent and Students to receive and send information. These options allow review of Student’s grades, attendance, schedule, ask questions through the Skyward Messaging Center and many others. * For more info on Skyward; **Visit:** <http://www.stlucieschools.org/parents&students/family-access.aspx>

Course Outline:

All of the following readings should be completed by the **beginning** of the week during which they will be discussed. The textbook assignments are essential for your understanding of our Classwork/Homework/Discussions. Class time will include lecture, discussions, and student lead activities. The expectation is that you will contribute to the discussions for the benefit of the entire class.

- 1st Quarter:** Project Citizen (Public Policy) / Foundations of American Government / Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens
 - <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/curriculum/Scope/SS/SS07Q1.pdf>
- 2nd Quarter:** Political Process and Active Citizenship / Political Process and The Media / Project Citizen
 - <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/curriculum/Scope/SS/SS07Q1.pdf>
- 3rd Quarter:** Government Types / Structure &Function of the Federal Government / The Executive & The Legislative Branch
 - <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/curriculum/Scope/SS/SS07Q3.pdf>
- 4th Quarter:** Judicial Branch / U.S. Foreign and Domestic Policy / Mock Congressional Hearing / U.S. Geography / U.S. Economy
 - <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/curriculum/Scope/SS/SS07Q4.pdf>

Teacher’s Message:

I expect good, positive behavior **at all times**. Disruptive behavior is not accepted nor will it be tolerated in the classroom. Parent involvement is important for student success, therefore I will use our Class Website & Skyward as a means of communication throughout the year. I will make phone calls and/or send emails as needed, please make sure that your contact information is updated & correct in Skyward so that communication can be made. Parents are encouraged to regularly monitor their child’s Skyward Account for important class information.

Finally, you are here for an education and my responsibility is to prepare you for high school and beyond. Our West Gate Faculty will give you the skills, teach you responsibility, encourage organization and model positive attitude so that you may believe in yourself and have the ability to succeed in life. It is important to start setting goals now and think of the future. **So plan to have a positive attitude and we will have a fantastic school year!**

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Contact # _____ **Parent Email:** _____

Signed Syllabus is due NEXT DAY upon receipt. Student must keep in folder at all times.