

~ Syllabus ~



Course: M/J Civics (1.0 credit)
Instructor: Ms. Mayte Armas
Website: <http://ArmasClass.weebly.com>

Course #: 2106000
Email: Mayte.Armast@stlucieschools.org
Twitter: @ArmasClass

Course Description ~ 7th Grade Civics

A. Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in a democratic society. The information you will be responsible for learning has to do with the reasons, functions and the process of government. Specifically, the origins of the U.S. Govt are important to know and understand as well as the roles, rights, and responsibilities of a United States citizen. An important part of your experience this year involves active participation in our political system. Students will become informed citizens in regard to their local, state, & federal govt. Content includes, but not limited to:

- United States Constitution
- role of individual in a democratic system
- rights, responsibilities, and obligations of citizens
- development, structure, and functions of local, state, and national governments within constitutional and economic frameworks
- foundations of the American political, social, and economic systems and institutions
- contemporary social issues
- history and contemporary problems of Florida
- problem-solving skills and strategies

B. Materials Required:

- (1) 2" Three-ring Binder with Paper
- (5) Pocket Dividers
- (2) Composition Notebooks (*no spirals*)
- (2) Pocket Folders: RED & BLUE

- * **USB Storage Device** - w/student name marked
- * Post-it Notes (4 pk of 3x3)
- * **Pencil Pouch** for *inside* 3-ring binder to include:
pens (blue/black/red), pencils, erasers, colored pencils,
rainbow colored highlighters, index cards, hand-held sharpener, 4-glue sticks, 1-scissors, 1-ruler

* **Keep in mind as projects arise more supplies will be needed.**

C. Course Requirements: These requirements include, but are not limited to, the benchmarks from the Sunshine State Standards that are most relevant to this course. Benchmarks correlated with a specific course requirement may also be addressed by other course requirements as appropriate. For more info, visit: www.fldoe.org

D. Course Objectives & Learning Goals: After successfully completing this course, the student will:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the legal, political, economic, and social system and traditions of the United States.
2. Demonstrate understanding of how major ideas/events have influenced the development of local, state, & federal governments.
3. Identify the structures/functions of local, state, & federal governments under the frameworks of the US & FL Constitutions
4. Demonstrate understanding of the duties, rights, and responsibilities of a citizen within our society.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the importance of participation in community service and political activities.
6. Demonstrate understanding of contemporary social issues that affect our political, economic, and social systems.
7. Evaluate the roles and contributions of women and diverse cultural groups in the political process.
8. Describe the impact of people, ideas & events on development of values, traditions, social-economic & political institutions in Florida.
9. Apply research, critical-thinking & decision-making skills & demonstrate the use of new & emerging technology in problem solving.

E. Course Disclosure: *Please Note* Students will be assigned pre-selected topics based on cross-curricular content, current events/foreign affairs, and other relevant issues. Some topics may be sensitive and/or controversial in nature as they may account for historical significance and/or are relevant (i.e.; North Korea & US tensions, US Supreme Court recent decisions, Congressional Reform, School shootings/gun control, etc.). Students are expected to be courteous and respectful to perspectives different than their own and conduct themselves within the guidelines set forth in our debate procedures. Parents are encouraged to inquire about current class topics to stay informed. Should there be any legitimate concern with an assigned topic: the parent **MUST** contact the instructor **directly** to arrange an alternative topic/assignment as soon as possible. **DO NOT** send a message or note with your child, as it will **NOT** be accepted. Furthermore, over the course of the year, we may be watching several movies that are relevant to our content focus. These movies may be rated **PG-13** and will be followed up with a learning activity (i.e.; Runaway Jury, The Hunger Games, The Wave, Historical documentaries, etc.) – should there be any issue with giving parental consent for these movies, the parent **MUST** contact the instructor **directly** to arrange an alternate assignment as soon as possible. **DO NOT** send a message or note with your child, as it will **NOT** be accepted.

F. Course Grades, Assignments, & Policies:

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

Grading Policy Per Grading Period:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Assessments: (Tests, quizzes, evaluations, DBQ essays, products, etc.) | 35 % |
| • Classwork: (Group/individual assignments, power points, etc.) | 25 % |
| • Projects: (Research, projects, presentations, papers, debates, etc.) | 20 % |
| • Home Learning: (HW-Current Events bi-weekly, other HW assigned, etc.) | 10 % |
| • Participation: (Journals, Debate, Participation in discussions, etc.) | 10 % |

* *Midterm & Final Exams account for 20% of a student's GPA in all academic classes and may possibly be projects and/or other forms of assessment rather than traditional paper & pencil exams. In addition, their **final EOC** will count **30%** towards **overall course grade.***
****Extra credit assignments will not be given****

Journals:

Students are required to have a composition notebook for daily journal entries which topics will be posted on the board at the beginning of class and a paragraph must be written on the topic within the first 5-7 minutes of class. These topics consist of PMA, goal setting & character education. Journals **MUST** remain in class and are graded weekly. ***DO NOT TAKE HOME** or that weekly grade will result in an **F grade***

Class Textbooks & Resources Used:

Center for Civic Education - "We the People- The Citizen and the Constitution" (2007) <http://new.civiced.org/pc-program/instructional-component/public-policy>
<http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/parents-students/documents/CivicsExamStudyGuide.pdf>

Holt McDougal "Civics in Practice" (2012)
Center for Civic Education - "Project Citizen" (2008) <http://ArmasClass.weebly.com> (more sources/links available)

For HW assignments and class resources, access the **Online Textbook** at: <http://go.hrw.com/gopages/ss-gc.html> – Click on the link for: "Civics in Action"
All students will be given a **Login Code** to access the Civics *Online* Textbook; students will have 2 days to complete the HW tasks that include using the Internet.

All of the assigned 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. 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. Each unit, student groups will be given Free Response Questions (FRQs) for which each group is responsible for developing outline answers. The FRQs on each test will come from these same questions.

For more details on Course Instructional Objectives, please visit the following county resources/links available on our district website:

- 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 and Function of the Federal Government /The Executive Branch / 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. Economy
 - <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/curriculum/Scope/SS/SS07Q4.pdf>

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Homework is due at the **beginning** of the class period and will be assigned as needed.
- Class work will be collected at the end of the period or *may be* allowed to finish for homework.
- Assignments **must** be written in pencil, blue or black ink and on loose leaf paper. **Any other color ink will not be accepted and must be recopied within 24 hours to receive full credit.**
- All **Projects** are due on the assigned due date. If a student is absent on a project due date, the student must turn it in upon returning to class along with a parent's & doctor's NOTE; or in the case of a scheduled absence, student may turn it in advance.

- **Late Work Policy:** Any LATE work must be in the **NEXT** day to receive credit /then reduced 1 letter grade per day late
Late policy does not apply to any Projects!! I may offer a forgiveness policy that will refresh each quarter as follows:
 - 1st late assignment may receive **FULL** credit accompanied by a parental note for valid reason.
 - 2nd late assignment grade will be reduced by 10% (1 grade) - *per day* it is late.
 - 3rd and/or more late assignments will receive a max credit of 50% (F) and will **not** be accepted.

- **Project Citizen:**
 - All students **MUST** participate & complete a year-round class project known as *Project Citizen*; per SLC's requirement.
 - **PC Projects** are explained & discussed in class, have teacher guidance and will have several components to be done at *home*.

- Ms. Armas will maintain a web page, please refer to it for past and current weeks' content, activities, reading, assessments, etc.
<http://ArmasClass.weebly.com> / Follow me on *Twitter*: [@ArmasClass](https://twitter.com/ArmasClass)

Academic Honesty Policy:

Violations of SLC's "Academic honesty policy" includes willful or deliberate unauthorized use of another person's work for academic purposes, or inappropriate use of notes, or other material in the completion of an academic assignment or test. Any copying & pasting, verbatim/paraphrased sources, without giving proper credit to the author is known as *Plagiarism*. Students will receive thorough explanation of all the details on the above and will be expected to adhere to the proper procedures involved with research & writing. In addition to disciplinary action, the granting of credit for the assignment will be *voided*, resulting in a "F" grade. For more info, visit class website and find the Plagiarism document that contains all details.

~Instructor's Message~

I expect good, positive behavior **at all times**. Disruptive behavior is **not** accepted **nor** will it be tolerated in the classroom. Open and respectful communication with your peers and Ms. Armas is expected. 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 any time by Ms. Armas ~ reasonable notice will be given.

Parent contact is vital for student success; therefore I will use several means to communicate; via our *Class Website*, *Twitter*, *Skyward* Messages & School *Emails*. I will only make calls and/or send emails as needed. Please make sure that your contact information is updated & correct in Skyward so that communication is possible. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's *Skyward* weekly for updates on grades, messages & other relevant info.

Finally, students are here for an education and my responsibility is to prepare you for high school & *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'll have a Fantastic school year!**

Please **PRINT** your name followed by your **SIGNATURE** indicating you have read **all** the course details and are **consenting** to the above terms & conditions of this course.

Student Name/Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name/Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Contact # (772) _____ Parent Email: _____

*Signed Syllabus is due **NEXT DAY** upon receipt for a HW Grade; Grade reduced daily if late; **MUST** be kept in binder/folder at all times.*