

SYLLABUS

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Seventh Grade Civics! This is a one-semester course that addresses content regarding democracy; liberty; law; personal economics; and local, state, and national civic responsibility. This course provides students with information about how society works, including the role students play in the community and in the world.

In the second semester, we will shift our focus to the study of geography for the remainder of the year. Students will learn about the physical world and practice geographic skills. They will be able to answer important questions about the world and its people by learning spatial terms, the locations and special characteristics of places and regions, and the impact of physical and human systems on the planet.

CIVICS OBJECTIVES & STANDARDS

- Explore historical influences on the government of the United States.
- Explain essential characteristics of the political system of the United States.
- Compare the government of the United States with other governmental systems.
- Describe structures of state and local governments in the United States.
- Compare duties and functions of members of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- Explain the importance of various laws within the judicial system of the United States.
- Explore economic factors related to civics such as the role of the government in the economy, comparing economic systems, and principles of money management.
- Describe individual and civic responsibilities of citizens of the United States.
- Examine some contemporary American issues since 2001.

GEOGRAPHY OBJECTIVES & STANDARDS

- Describe the world in spatial terms using maps and other geographic representations.
- Determine how regions are used to describe the organization of Earth's surface.
- Compare geographic patterns that result from various processes in Earth's physical systems.
- Evaluate spatial patterns and the demographic structure of population.
- Explain how cultural features, traits, and diffusion help define regions.
- Classify patterns of settlement, including types and sizes, and how they influence regions.
- Examine forces that lead to cooperation and conflict among people.
- Explore the human impact upon the physical environment.
- Explain how various human systems developed in response to the physical environment.
- Explain the impact of geography on influential historical events.

COURSE MATERIALS

Building Citizenship textbook, *World Cultures & Geography* textbook, paper, pens, notebook, Chromebooks

GRADING

Major Grades	65%	A 90-100
Minor Grades	35%	B 80-89
		C 70-79
		D 60-69
		F 59 and below

- All assignments will have due dates. Major grades that are turned in late will receive a **10% deduction for each day late**. Late minor grades must be turned in **no later than the next day for 80% credit** (a 20% deduction).
- If a student is excused absent on the day an assignment is due, that student will be allowed to make up the assignment in accordance with the school handbook policy.
- Students may be provided the opportunity to revise certain assignments for an improved grade at teacher's discretion.
- Individual extra credit will not be assigned; however, opportunities could be made available to an entire class for extra credit.
- At the end of each quarter, the lowest minor grade may be dropped, at teacher's discretion, if there is an adequate number of grades to allow for it.
- Grades will be posted on PowerSchool. There will be more information about this coming soon.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This classroom is a safe and positive environment where all students are encouraged to grow and learn in both character and content. All students will be expected to respect and collaborate with others and take responsibility for their studies and completion of coursework, thereby doing their best to realize their full potential.

CLASS RULES

1. Arrive to class on time and be seated when the bell rings.
2. Complete all assignments and come to class prepared.
3. Respect others and their property.
4. Pay attention and do not talk while the teacher is talking.
5. Follow directions the first time.

CONSEQUENCES

1. Verbal warning
2. Break Detention
3. Parent Contact
4. Office Referral

NETIQUETTE

Periodically throughout the course, students will be expected to participate in and complete activities and assignments through Schoology. When participating in online coursework and collaborating with classmates online, communication is expected to be positive, supportive, and constructive.