

Civics

2019-2020

Instructor Information

Instructor

Mr. Bley Kueck

Email & Phone

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Office Location & Hours

Room 2238, FLEX Tues-Thurs

General Information

Description

Welcome to Civics! This course is extremely important to you both as an American Citizen and a member of the Global Community. Our government is involved in almost every aspect of our lives. It is essential that we are all well-versed in the history, structure, and policymaking aspects of our US Government, but this course is so much more than politics! At its root, it is about becoming an exemplary citizen; clearly, politics plays a part in this, but we will also be considering other aspects of citizenship. This course is broken down into 5 sections: Foundations of American Democracy, Interactions Among Branches of Government, American Political Ideologies and Beliefs, Political Participation, and Civil Liberties and Civil Rights.

My goals for this class are that you will understand and accept your responsibilities as an American Citizen and find your voice as a member of the global community. In this course, I will attempt to challenge what you believe in order to help you grow into a more passionate, analytical, and critical thinker.

Given that this is **Civics**, we will mostly be dealing with the following Capstone Questions:

- What is the purpose of government?
- What is the telos of human existence?
- What does it mean to be an exemplary citizen?
- What does it mean for people to be equal?

We will also be engaging with our Senior Year Questions:

- What does it mean to be a human being?
- What does it mean to be a human being in relation to other human beings?
- What does it mean to be a human being in relation to society/government?

Expectations

- *Have Fun and Enjoy!* This stuff affects you in your daily life, and will for the rest of it! And, even if it doesn't affect you directly, it probably affects someone close to you. This class is crucial for your growth as a student as well as your growth as a member of society. I'm so excited to see you use your strengths in order to work through projects and assignments to show off what you know.
- *Be prepared each day.* This class will only work when you bring yourself and your brain and what's happening in it. I trust you will come to class each day with homework or reading completed, and with the minimal expected supplies. (C'mon. That's really not asking too much.) I also expect that you will stay somewhat up to date on current events, and vary the sources from which you get information in order to see the whole picture.
- *Be respectful!* We are Titans! Remember our creed. We will discuss what this means at the start of the course, and recall ways we can implement these ideas into our daily lives.

The Obvious Housekeeping Items

- In order to be “on time”, students must be in their seat when the bell rings.
- Cell phones will **NOT** be used in class unless otherwise specified, and then only after permission has been granted. **After one warning**, phones will be taken away and returned at the end of class. Additional offenses will result in note to parents, followed by office referral if the issue is not resolved.
- If you must eat in class, please be mindful of food allergies when selecting snacks and always clean up after yourself. Snacks or other food that excessively distracting (smelly, messy, doesn't look good) will not be permitted. You might be expected to share.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise indicated. Late assignments can result in a 10% deduction per day. This is non-negotiable.
- If you are sick on the day an assignment is due, please speak with Mr. Kueck to discuss a plan to get work turned in without penalty. It is the student's responsibility to get all makeup work from Mr. Kueck.
- If you have a planned absence, all assignments need to be collected **prior** to your absence. If you need assistance planning ahead, please contact Mr. Kueck.
- It is a daily expectation that students maintain a high level of professionalism, courtesy, and integrity in and outside of the classroom. Participation in discussion and class activities is expected and reflected in the participation grade. Failure to uphold this expectation will result in a loss of participation points.
- Students are responsible for communicating questions, concerns, etc. to Mr. Kueck in a timely manner.

Course Materials

Daily Materials

Each day you must bring:

- Composition Book (college ruled)-To be collected at various times throughout the semesters.
- Writing utensil of your choice
- Senior Reader
- Folder or Binder to collect handouts

Required Text

Senior Reader Spiral Bound, Various Authors

United States Government Class Text (to be kept in classroom), Fraga

Assignments and Grading:

- This class will include note taking, lots of discussion, a few assigned debates, a few presentations, and creative, in-class activities to facilitate acquisition and retention of the information. We will read the Constitution and its amendments in their entirety along with other works of political thought, some in their entirety and excerpts of others.

- At the end of each unit there will be a unit test to assess the student’s mastery of the subject along with a **comprehensive** exam at the end of each semester. Students will be subject to taking an exam as agreed to by the senior class and the administration in the senior contract. Students will also show mastery of civics through class presentations, a research project, and an editorial assignment.
- Part of being an exemplary citizen is understanding the national and world situation and geography. To aid the students in the practice of paying attention to what is happening nationally and globally, there will be time devoted each week to current events, through student presentations and class discussions.
- Assignments fall into one of four categories: quizzes, tests/exams, class participation, and outside assignments.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Additional Exercises
Weeks 1-3	Foundations of American Democracy	Chapters 1-2	Current Events, Herodotus, Aristotle’s Art of Rhetoric, Declaration of Independence
Weeks 4-6	Social Contract Theory	Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau, Plato	Roundtable Discussion, Current Events
Weeks 7-9	Constitution & Federalism	Constitution	Constitution Outline, Current Events, Cicero, Polybius, Montesquieu
Weeks 10-15	Political Process and Participation, Political Parties	Ballot Blue Books, Sample Ballots, etc.	Electoral College, Current Event, Local Election, Political Party Affiliation.
Weeks 16-17	Finals	Review and Finals Week	
Weeks 18-25	3 Branches	Constitution, Corresponding text chapters	Federalist & Antifederalist Papers, Mock Congress
Weeks 26-35	Civil Rights/Civil Liberties, Landmark Supreme Court Cases	14 th Amendment, Bill of Rights, Landmark Cases	Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Federalist 84, Supreme Court, Moot Court
Weeks 36-37	Final Review & GRADUATION!		

Please sign and keep the below portion.

I have read and understand all the above rules and expectations. I agree to abide by the rules of the class as well as maintain all TCA rules and standards. I understand that breaking the rules may affect my grade or result in disciplinary action. I understand how the class will be structured and how assignments will be graded and weighted.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date
