

Civics & Economics

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OVERVIEW

Civics & Economics is a course designed to orient the student to his or her role as a participant in the American political & economic systems. The course is intended to encourage abstract thinking, patriotism, respect for law, a sense of civic duty, and informed economic decision-making.

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

Students will be provided a list of the Standards of Learning (SOL) and will be expected to orient themselves as to what will be covered in the course of the school year.

GRADING SYSTEM

Formal Assessment Grades	50%
Specialized Assessment Grades	30%
Homework/Classwork Assignments & Participation	20%

FORMAL ASSESSMENTS

Tests and quizzes are the method of assessment that carries the most weight. A variety of tests and quizzes will be administered, including: multiple choice, short answer, and matching. All formal assessments are based upon classroom objectives and consistent with the Standards of Learning. There will be an average of five to eight formal assessments during each quarter (all of which are announced). Formal projects are also including in this category. These projects are in-depth tasks that justify the increased grade weight.

SPECIALIZED ASSESSMENTS

Alternative assessments present an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of various concepts studied using their own method. These are generally project-based and are of the students' own choosing. Yet, unannounced quizzes will also appear in this category. With any assessment whereby the student is responsible for its design, an "Alternative Assessment Proposal" must be completed and approved beforehand. Some alternative assessment assignments will be required to be type-written or word-processed. Any assignment that is hand-written MUST be completed in blue or black ink.

ASSIGNMENTS & PARTICIPATION

Class assignments, whether in-class or out-of-class, serve as a chance to practice concepts presented in class. There will not always be daily homework assignments. However, assignments of various types should be expected on a regular basis. Homework and classwork are graded solely upon effort! Due to the nature of the content to be studied, class participation is very important. Class participation is not simply taking part in class discussions. Rather, it is also considered active engagement within the material studied.

CIVICS & ECONOMICS ON-LINE

A website has been developed in order to compliment this course. The address of this site is <http://www.blackboard.com/courses/Civics7>. Throughout the school year, this course site will be used in a variety of way, including: assessment preparation, interactive chat session, topic-specific bulletin board discussions, assignment list, etc. Students are also strongly encouraged to submit homework assignments on-line when possible.

ORGANIZATION OF COURSE (Time-frames provided are *approximate*)

FIRST QUARTER (September 5th – November 6th)

Unit One – Foundations of American Government (SOL: CE.1, CE.2, CE.3, CE.4, CE.6)

- The America Mosaic: Rights, Responsibilities, & Citizenship – 3 Weeks
- The Foundations of American Government – 3 Weeks
- The Structure of American Government – 4 Weeks

SECOND QUARTER (November 8th – January 26th)

Unit Two – The Creation & Implementation of Public Policy (SOL: CE.5, CE.6, CE.7, CE.8)

- Voting & Political Parties – 3½ Weeks
- Public Policy-Making – 4 weeks
- Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile Justice – 4½ Weeks

THIRD QUARTER (January 29th – March 30th)

Unit Three – Economics (SOL: CE.9, CE.10, CE.11)

- The Basics of Economics – 4 Weeks
- The Government & Our Global Economy – 4 Weeks

FOURTH QUARTER (April 2nd – June 14th)

Unit Four – Participatory Citizenship & Careers (SOL: CE.1, CE.3, CE.4, CE.12)

- Career Exploration & Personal Finance – 3 Weeks
- Problems, Issues, & Application of American Public Policy – 3 Weeks

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____