

Mr. Dalesandro's 7th Grade Civics Syllabus

"Happiness and **moral duty** are inseparably connected. A primary [goal] should be **the education of our youth in the science of government**. In a republic, what knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing... than ... communicating it to those who are to be **the future guardians of the liberties of the country?**" - George Washington



True justice is never guaranteed.



Participate in the Process.



Our Course Objectives:

We are all members of multiple communities; home, school, city, county, state, country, etc... The ultimate goal of civics class is to provide students with a well-rounded understanding of how all of the levels of the United States government functions. Students will explore the rights and responsibilities of American citizens and gain an understanding of how to be a productive member of all of these communities. I guarantee that no matter what you're interested in or passionate about, that there is a connection to civics. We all have different skill sets and abilities we can use to serve our community in different careers, hobbies, or other roles. We will explore this more in one of your first assignments.



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"What's that mean to me?"

The class is **awesome** and **essential for life**. If you haven't already, this year you'll begin to consider what you're passionate about and how you can use your knowledge from civics in the real world. Think about this big question during this year and throughout your life...will you strive for *empathy* or *apathy*? "A life is not important except for the impact it has on other lives." If you don't know how your government works, how can you ever expect to take action and shape your world into what you want it to be? Roughly 22 million people work for various government agencies in the U.S. (approximately 7% of all Americans). However, **100%** of Americans use government services, and civics is for **EVERYONE** to learn how to participate in the process of making society better. One day, your 7th grade class will run this country. The knowledge and skills you gather in this class will help prepare you for this task. In fact, **the content of this course is so important; students will have to show mastery by passing a CUMULATIVE End of Course Exam (EOC) that makes up 30% of your overall grade for the WHOLE YEAR!**

(*Pre-IB ONLY) Community Service Requirement: 20 hours (check eCampus homepage for forms/resources)

eCampus, Unit Quizzes, and Study Guides: Like every class, my eCampus homepage will have an updated weekly agenda with all assignments and homework posted with links posted. The homepage of eCampus also links to my **Course Overview** page which links to a page for each unit of study. These unit pages will have detailed instructions and resources found in different "Tasks" that we will use to learn about our course content. Assignments, quizzes, and homework will make up 90% of the student's grade, and the end of quarter test will make up 10% of the student's grade for their report card.

- ❖ **Unit Quizzes:** For each unit below, we will have ONE eCampus quiz. The quiz has two attempts and you are allowed to use open notes. You can see which questions you get wrong at the end of the first attempt in order to make necessary corrections. ASK FOR HELP from your teacher and/or use your notes from your study guides. Each quiz has unlimited time, so do not submit unless you are comfortable with your answers. While I will give enough class time to do the quiz, students who are absent or don't get time to complete for other reasons can take the quiz outside the class/at home.
- ❖ **Study Guides:** Each quarter you will be assigned a study guide to help you master the material in class and use to study for your quizzes, quarter exams, and the End of Course Exam in May. These study guides will be split into multiple assignments with different due dates that will appear on eCampus under "Grades" and will appear on your eCampus calendar. They can also be found on my **Course Overview** page.

Course Topics Overview:

Quarter 1	*Citizenship: Immigration and Naturalization/Responsibilities and Obligations, *Political Parties and the Electoral Process, *Propaganda and Media, *Forms and Systems of Government
Quarter 2	*The Path to Democracy and the Declaration of Independence, *Making the Constitution
Quarter 3	*The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches, *Checks and Balances, *the Bill of Rights and other Amendments, *Supreme Court Cases
Quarter 4	*The American Legal System, *Florida Constitution and Local Government, *Foreign and Domestic Policy

Classroom Policies/Supplies: Students are expected to follow two (very simple) policies:

- **RESPECT YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR PEERS, YOUR TEACHERS, AND YOURSELF! Spartans will R.I.S.E.!**
- **COME TO SCHOOL PREPARED: Spiral bound notebook, pen or pencil**

"So let us not be blind to our differences--but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal." —President John F. Kennedy