

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.



"For me, civic education is the key to inspiring kids to want to stay involved in making a difference." - *Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, U.S. Supreme Court*

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.

"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 your daily lives. 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 seek justice, ensure equality, protect your rights and the rights of others, 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: 10 hours for the year total (check eCampus homepage for forms/resources)

eCampus and Study Guides: Like every class, my eCampus homepage will have an updated weekly agenda with all assignments and homework posted in the order in which they should be completed. Everything in the agenda is linked to pages to submit the assignments and there are links to our current unit page. 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. All assignments 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. All assignments will also appear on eCampus under "Assignments" and "Grades," and under "Grades" students can find feedback/comments on their assignments.

- ❖ **Study Guides:** Each quarter you will be assigned a study guide to help you master the material in class and use to study for test questions in the study guide itself, 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 "Assignments" and "Grades." They will also appear on your eCampus calendar. A PDF version can also be found on my **Course Overview** page.

❖ Course Topics Overview:

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

RESPECT YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR PEERS, YOUR TEACHERS, AND YOURSELF! Spartans will R.I.S.E.!

"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



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