

OHHS Social Studies Department

Course Syllabus



Course Name: Civics

Course Code: SSO401/01/05

Course Description:

This course is designed to give students an understanding of how the American Government system works. It will give the students an opportunity to become aware and understand the inner workings of the government. Students will be encouraged to read daily newspapers, watch newscasts and read current periodicals. They are also expected to participate in classroom discussions that promote the democratic process.

Prerequisites

None; *Graduation Requirement*

Course Resources

Primary text book or other teaching resources should be listed. Any supplementary resources that are integral to the course or used extensively should also be listed.

Course Fees

- Textbook: Macgruder's *American Government*
- Media, Supplemental, Periodicals and Video Resources
- Primary/Secondary Sources (*were available*)
 - Internet
 - Access to the internet is required to complete assignments.
 - Access to a printer is not required but **highly** desirable.
 - Teacher email jchargualaf@ohsd.net

Course Outline/Instructional Units

Course Outline/Instructional Units/Essential Questions (EQ):

Pre-Unit 1: The Constitution and Federalist Papers

- *EQ:* How open to interpretation are the Bill of Rights?
- *EQ:* Why did the founding fathers develop the three branches of government?

Unit 1 (Chpt 1-4): Foundations of American Government

- *EQ:* How has history help shape American Democracy?
- *EQ:* How does the structure of the U.S. Constitution shape the government?

- *EQ*: What is the significance of the constitutional amendments?
- *EQ*: Examine the use of Checks & Balances in the three branches of government.

Unit 2 (Chpt 5, 7): The Legislative Branch

- *EQ*: Describe the structure of Congress.
- *EQ*: How does the organization of Congress persuade and dissuade the passage of legislation?
- *EQ*: What knowledge and skills do people need to participate effectively in our political system?

Unit 3 (Chpt 8, 10): The Executive Branch (and the Federal Bureaucracy)

- *EQ*: How have executive powers changed over time?
- *EQ*: What is the importance of federal agencies and how persuasive are they?
- *EQ*: To what degree does the President have control over the Federal Agencies?

Unit 4 (Chpt 11-12): The Judicial Branch

- *EQ*: Identify ways the Supreme Court shapes public policy and explain the limits on the Court’s power.

Unit 5: Liberals vs. Conservatives – Which are you?

- *EQ*: What is the significance of party platforms?
- *EQ*: What are the pros and cons of a two-party system?

Major Assessments

- Midterm & Final Exams.

Extra Help

Students may contact their teacher to arrange for extra help before or after school during teacher conference hours.

RE-DO POLICY:

OHHS is an effort based school where we believe all students can learn. We also know that students learn at different rates. Thus, we are implementing a re-do policy that recognizes the needs of individual learners.

- 100% Re-do
 - o Assessments (with exception for the tri-mester final exam)
 - o Key Assignments: Evidence that demonstrates mastery of a standard
- Teachers may:
 - o require completion of supporting assignments prior to re-do opportunities for students to show they can meet the standard.
 - o require students to complete re-do of work outside of class time.
 - o limit the number of re-do opportunities for each assignment.
 - o assign zero grades when students choose not to do key assignments and/or assessments to standard.
- All opportunities for re-do work will come with a deadline as assigned by the teacher.

Weighted Categories

Set department categories and weighting

| Category | Percentage of Overall Grade |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 20 | Daily Work |

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 15 | Major Assessment/Projects |
| 65 | Regular Assessments |

Grading Scale:

| Regular Scale | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Letter Grade | Percentage |
| A | 93% and Above |
| A - | 90%-92.99% |
| B+ | 87%-89.99% |
| B | 83%-86.99% |
| B- | 80-82.99% |
| C+ | 77%-79.99% |
| C | 73-76.99% |
| C- | 70-72.99% |
| D+ | 67%-69.99% |
| D | 60%-66.99% |
| F | 59.99% and Below |

OHHS PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Any student, who knowingly turns in any work that has been done by someone other than himself or herself, and fraudulently represents it as his/her own, shall be considered to have cheated. Cheating also includes: aiding someone else in cheating, the use or preparation of written, pictorial, electronic or other materials not authorized by the instructor during a test or assignment, the use of testing materials obtained previous to the test date, or plagiarism of any kind. Students found cheating will also be subject to an office referral, which could result in a suspension. As an effort based school, students who have plagiarized/cheated must still demonstrate their learning. Thus, students will be given the opportunity to complete the work. This will fall under the "Late Work Policy" of the teacher where total possible points may be reduced.

