

Civics

Mrs. Adkins

Fall 2015

“A constitutional democracy is in serious trouble if its citizenry does not have a certain degree of education and civic virtue.”

~ Phillip E. Johnson, American Law Professor and Author

What is Civics?

Civics is a study of the rights and duties of citizens of the United States. This includes discussions about how the government operates, American citizenship, our legal system, and our basic rights. As a result of this course, you will gain knowledge that will help you make the responsible decisions of an informed citizen in our American democracy.

What are our goals?

1. To understand the American cultural background and diversity
2. To know the qualities of good citizens and qualifications for U.S. citizenship
3. To understand America's political heritage and constitution
4. To know the functions/purposes of the 3 branches of the national government
5. To understand the way political parties and interest groups work
6. To understand the role of state and local government
7. To know the basics of the American legal system

Course Basics

Grading: Your grades in this course will be earned through tests, classwork, class discussion boards, and a final portfolio. Each assignment will be given a point value and your grade will be determined by the amount of points earned out of the amount of points possible. All of these assignments will be discussed further at a later time. Late work will result in a points penalty.

Texts: Your textbook will be *Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics, and You* although you will not be required to use it on a regular basis. Other text sources will come from various primary and secondary source manuals provided by me.

Materials Needed Daily:

- 1 ½ inch 3-ring binder – NOT a spiral bound notebook; this is to keep assignment handouts and class notes in
- Pens and pencils
- Paper

Class Policies

1. Be respectful of others – remember the golden rule which can be found across all cultures.
2. Be on time – multiple tardies will result in phone calls home and disciplinary referrals.
3. Turn in all work on time – late work will result in a varying points-per-day penalty, depending on the assignment.
4. Bring your notebook daily.
5. Use appropriate signals and passes when leaving the classroom. Get a pink pass for the nurse.



Cell Phone/Device Policy



- No cell phones, tablets, or smart device of any kind are to be visible or in use without permission from me for lesson purposes. This includes sitting out on your desk or being pulled repeatedly from your pockets, purses, or book bags.
- Keep all devices silenced while in class and not in use. Keep earbuds/headphones put away at all times unless permission is granted.
- We will be **using** them from time to time, as long as students are not **abusing** them on a daily basis!

I look forward to teaching you this semester!