

## Civics – High School

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Welcome to American Civics. This course is a study of the United States government, and your special relationship with it as an American. As you work through its lessons, you will learn how our government, and economic and political systems are supposed to operate. After you have completed this course, you'll find you'll be a much better judge deciding who might be right or wrong in those media covered controversies between government and private citizens, government and special interest groups, even government verses government issues. You'll understand why the founding fathers wanted the colonies to break away from England, and why they set up the United States government as a republic instead of as a democracy. In other words, initiating and completing this course will help you to become a much more knowledgeable citizen with a clearer understanding why so many gave so much that you might enjoy the great blessings of liberty. Most graded exercises, and all unit exams will be listed on the lesson pages themselves. You will be guided to the left navigation bar to locate and open the exercise you wish to initiate that is not directly linked on the lesson page itself.

There are discussion board questions that are mandatory participation. They will be found in all unit lessons. Directions and instructions will explain what to post, how to post, and any additional information required.

There are several assignments required to be written in a Word document, and submitted as an ".RTF" file. These will be exercises your instructor must grade individually due to many variable, acceptable answers.

Your semester grades will be determined by the following:

- Discussion board presence, 45% of total grade
- Lesson activities, 20% of total course grade
- Quizzes, 30% of total grade
- Final Exam, 5%
- The assessment focus of this course is heavily weighted upon its projects, worksheets, and discussion boards. Therefore, quizzes and tests are not so numerous in the course itself. What this means is that class interaction and participation are mandatory to pass. This most certainly includes discussion board posts.

Your Grading Scale is:

- 100% - 90% =A
- 89% - 80% =B
- 79% - 70% =C
- 69% - 60% =D
- Final Course Grade earned from this online course will be adjusted to reflect your school district's grading scale if different from the grading scale shown above.
- Assignments and projects

These are listed on the first page of each unit along with their point values.

#### Communications and Correspondence

It is imperative that communication between instructor and student be both constant and consistent. Your instructor will contact you either by phone or e-mail to insure that your lessons are going well. You are encouraged to contact your instructor with any course question that might arise, any technical difficulties you might experience, or if your personal schedule keeps you "off-line" for any length of time (3 to 4 days). When contacting your instructor, follow all netiquette rules, identify who you are, and in what section/semester/course name you are enrolled (your instructor may have 60-70 students, and can't tell who you are just by looking at your e-mail address). If you have any questions about your course, grade, or assignment, and whether you feel it's significant or not, your best bet is always to contact your instructor.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE LENGTH:** One Semester

**REQUIRED TEXT:** No required textbook for this course

**MATERIALS LIST:** No required materials for this course.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

**Unit 1: Civic Life**

**Unit 2: Foundations 1**

**Unit 3: Foundations 2**

**Unit 4: State-Local**

**Unit 5: City Government**

**Unit 6: Political Parties**

**Civics Final Exam**