

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Trifu

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Room # 124

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to promote civic virtue through education of civics and an understanding of the political process at our various levels of government. Students will gain a working knowledge of the concepts and principles of the founding documents of this country. They will further develop their skills of historical and current events analysis. The coursework encourages students to fulfill their duties and responsibilities as good citizens. It will also serve as an introduction to the world of Economics. Students will have an opportunity to practice public speaking through various projects and activities. As a result of this course, students will be better prepared for participating in the world around them as they become informed citizens ready to impact their communities.

### **First Quarter**

Citizenship, Governments  
Our Founding Documents  
The Executive Branch

### **Third Quarter**

State & Local Governments  
Civil & Criminal Law  
Foreign Affairs

### **Second Quarter**

Political Parties & Elections  
Legislative & Judicial Branches  
Landmark Supreme Court Decisions

### **Fourth Quarter**

Review for State Exam  
Intro to Economics  
U.S. Geography

## TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM

Florida Civics; Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt (an online version is available for student access: [hmhco.com/ed](http://hmhco.com/ed))

## ASSESSMENT

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice	--	30%
Performance (Mastery)	--	70%

**Grading Scale:** A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Proactive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under “middle school”, “Forms/Documents/Newsletters”:

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 23-24 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

## PROCEDURES

**Daily Required Materials:** Charged Chromebook, Civics Folder with blank loose leaf paper, Blue or Black Pen or Pencil

**Google Classroom:** Most assignments are posted here and will be submitted here as well. This is where you will find study guides, project rubrics, and due dates for all assignments.

**Bell Ringer/Dismissal:** During the first several minutes of class, students will follow instructions for completing the bell ringer assignment. Any hard copy of Homework that was due, is to be placed in the homework basket at the **beginning** of class. Homework not submitted at the beginning of class will be marked late.

**Make-up Work:** Absent students should check google classroom and the teacher connection calendar for make-up work. It is the student's responsibility to complete missed classwork, turn in homework or, to request to take a missed test the day of their return from the absence.

**Late Work:** Students are expected to complete all assignments and submit them on or before the day it is due. Any work submitted the day after it was due will earn, **at best**, a 60% score. **Work submitted two or more days after the due date will not be accepted. Pre-determined due dates for assignments that can be submitted online are expected to be submitted on time even while absent.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

There will be two research projects assigned this year during the middle of the 2nd and 3rd marking periods. The End of Course Civics Exam issued by the State will be administered in May.

## CELL PHONE AND SMARTWATCH POLICY

Cell phones, smart watches and any other communication devices may not be used while on campus. If you feel your child must have one of these electronic devices, it must remain in their backpack, TURNED OFF while at school and during Extended Care. Texting and videotaping are not permitted anytime during the school day.

Students are not to call, text, or message their family members during the school day. If students need to reach a member of their family, they can use one of the phones in the main office. You can help us enforce this policy by not texting your children and calling or answering their calls during the day.

Students with a device visible and/or using a device anywhere at school will have their device taken for the remainder of the school day. The teacher who takes the phone or smartwatch will turn it into the main office for the parent to pick up, and the student will receive a consequence for their choice.

## **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

### **Syllabus for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics 2023-2024 Instructor: Mr. Trifu**

**Electronic Signature Page Link:**  
<https://forms.gle/rwwtMfVtTFTnzPad8>

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE FORM BY  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023.**