Civics Course Syllabus

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**Course Description**

The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics has been developed as a course that provides the framework for understanding the basic tenets of American democracy, practices of American government as established by the United States Constitution, basic concepts of American politics and citizenship and concepts in macro and micro economics and personal finance. The essential standards of this course are organized under three strands- Civics and Government, Personal Financial Literacy and Economics.

* *North Carolina Essential Standards - Social Studies*

**Course Objective**

Through the study of Civics and Economics, students will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible and effective citizens in an interdependent world. Students will need a practical understanding of these systems of civics and economics that affect their lives as consumers and citizens. Furthermore, this course serves as a foundation for United States History.

* *North Carolina Essential Standards - Social Studies*

**Units:** Unit 1: Foundations of American Government

Unit 2: The Constitution

Unit 3: Comparative Government

Unit 4: Politics, Elections, and Citizenship

Unit 5: Making Laws

Unit 6: Violating the Law

Unit 7: Personal Financial Literacy

Unit 8: Economic Fundamentals

Unit 9: Government in the Economy

Unit 10: International Economics

**Class Rules and Expectations**

1. **Come to class prepared --** This means having all assignments completed prior to the beginning of class and being seated and ready to begin when the bell rings.

2. **Respect the rights of others** -- Treat others with dignity and respect. Students should feel safe to exchange ideas. No question is a "stupid” question! Professional courtesy should always prevail. No profanity or name calling of any kind will be tolerated.

3. **Respect school property as well as the property of others --** This includes returning any borrowed materials to the owner in a timely fashion (e.g. lecture notes, handouts).

4. **Communicate not copy** – It is okay to collaborate, just make sure YOU are doing your own work.

**Tardies**

Students must have a sweeper pass if entering the class after the bell has sounded. Students will be disciplined by administration for their tardiness. I enforce the school attendance and tardy policies.

**Late Work**

For late work, students can earn a minimum of 70% of the grade they would have received if they had turned in the work completed and on time. Work that is submitted on time and meets the minimal completion requirements will receive no less than 50%. However, if the work does not meet standards set on instructions and rubrics, the assignment can receive less than a 50%. Work will not be accepted within one week prior to the end of the grading period.

**Make-up Work**

Students are responsible for making up any missed work within **three** days of returning. This does not include previously assigned work due on the day they were absent. If students miss a test or a quiz of any kind, it is **THEIR RESPONSIBILITY** to arrange a time to take it. Students will receive a zero on the exam/quiz until it is made up. Make ups can be done during Pride Time, Smart Lunch, or after school upon pre-arrangement with the teacher.

**Restroom Policy**

BE RESPONSIBLE. Bathroom usage during class is a privilege. Do not abuse it! Students may use the restroom during classroom transitions or class work time with the permission of the teacher. Students may not go to the restroom during instruction time. Bathroom breaks are limited to 3 minutes. I reserve the right to take away restroom privileges if I feel they are being abused. Students are not permitted to leave class to use the restroom for the first and last 15 minutes of each class period. This is school policy.

**Electronic Devices**

Student devices should be put away and silenced until the teacher designates an appropriate time frame for educational use in class. Consequences for not abiding by said guidelines will result in the following:

1st offense – Warning

2nd offense – Taken by teacher and returned at end of class

3rd offense – administration referral & device taken to the office for parent pick-up

For tests and quizzes, electronic devices will be placed in backpacks or on the top corner of the desk facedown. If a student uses an electronic device during a test or quiz, even if they have finished early, they will receive an automatic zero on the assessment.

**Grading and Evaluation**

Throughout the course there will be several opportunities for students to demonstrate their abilities and comprehension of the subject matter. Assessments activities will include unit tests, in-class activities, participation and other activities and assignments as necessary. All grades will be based on a point value total and a straight percentage scale. A comprehensive exam will be given at the end of each semester and is 20% of the total grade.

**1st Quarter 40% 2nd Quarter 40% Final Exam (NCFE) 20%**

**Breakdown:**

1. **Tests 40%**
2. **Quizzes 30%**
3. **Homework 15%**
4. **Classwork 15%**

**Materials;**

* Notebook
* Pen and pencil
* Folder/binder/notebook with pockets

**Wakefield Honor Code**

The students of Wakefield High School are committed to being honest and responsible on the completion of academic materials and interactions with the school administration and community. Cheating, stealing, plagiarism (passing off another’s work, words, or ideas as one’s own), and lying (including willful distortion or misinterpretation) are considered violations of the Honor Code. Through a joint fulfillment of this code, students and faculty will achieve their fullest potential in academic excellence and character.

Please detach this waiver page and return to Mrs. Money as your first homework assignment of the year.

**Students and Parents:**

Please feel free to email me at any time with any questions or concerns. It is my belief that working together is important in a student's success. Parents please provide an e-mail address. This is the quickest way to communicate with me and ensures a record of our conversation. When using e-mail, please keep in mind that e-mail is a public record. Thank you. I look forward to a very productive and meaningful school year!

I have read and understand all expectations of this class:

Student Signature: Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_