

Civics

"To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to be ever a child."

- Cicero, Roman statesman and orator (106 - 43 BC)

Instructor: Mr. Wicklander

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Hours: **8:00 a.m. – 3:35 p.m., Monday – Friday**
(Although I often available from around 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

Class website: classroom.google.com (be sure to be signed in with a Google account)

Teacher website: winchesterschools.net (select my name under the High School tab)

Course Description:

This course is designed to prepare the student to be an intelligent voter who knows our basic laws and can recognize what democracy is all about. Students will also learn the mechanics of registering and voting. Students must pass the Illinois Constitution and United States Constitution tests in order to pass this class.

Required supplies: Notebook, folder for homework, pencil or pen.

Google Meet code: WHScivics

Winchester High School Grading Scale:

100-90: A

89-80: B

79-70: C

69-65: D

64 and below: F

Contacting me

- The best way to contact me during the school day is in my classroom.
 - Check to see if I have a prep period or if you can come during Advisory.
- The best way to contact me outside of school is through email.
- If you email me, I will try to respond as soon as I have the opportunity. This may vary depending on the day or time you send your email.
 - If your email is sent during the school day, you will probably get a fast response.
 - If your email is sent after school or during the weekend, it may be a little longer before you receive a response.
 - Note: If you send an email at 10:00 p.m. the previous night, it is very unlikely I will see your email until the morning.
- If you email me asking for copies of notes, textbook readings, etc., and I send those links or attachments to you:
 - I will appreciate it if you send a reply back to me letting me know you've received them. Just a simple "I got it. Thanks." will do.

Attendance

- Regular attendance is essential to succeeding in class.
- I do understand that people get sick, relatives pass away, and other school activities (e.g. field trips, college visits, etc.) can require absences.
- However, there is no adequate substitute for being in class.
 - If you are well enough, it is vital and in your best interest that you are present.
- If there is a valid reason for you to miss class, **it is your responsibility** to meet with the teacher to find out what you missed.
 - I will not necessarily remember that you were absent, so do not assume that I will.

Google Classroom

- Much of the class material will be delivered through Google Classroom
- In Classroom, you will be able to find:
 - A copy of this syllabus for the class
 - PowerPoint slides of notes we cover in class
 - Many of your assignments (although most are still on paper)
 - Announcements for the class
- You will receive a join code in your email. Be sure to join Google Classroom quickly.
- Google Classroom has 4 main sections: Stream, Classwork, People, Grades
 - Most material will be in Stream and Classwork:
 - **Stream**: Announcements from newest to oldest
 - **Classwork**: syllabus, materials, handouts, homework

Google Meet/Remote Learning

- As you well know, there may be occasions where school will not meet in session but we will be on remote learning (COVID, snow days, etc.)
- If we are on remote learning for either a day or an extended period of time:
 - **We will still meet as a class as if it were a normal school day**
 - That is, UNLESS it is decided there is no remote learning for that day
 - Go to meet.google.com and sign in with the class code
 - For this class: WHScivics
 - I will take attendance
 - We will still meet for class, though perhaps not for the entire 42 minutes

Seating Arrangement

- As per new rules, you will have an assigned seat.
- Be in your assigned seat by the time the bell is finished ringing.
- Failure or refusal to sit in your assigned seat may result in a tardy or other discipline.

Weekly Points

- During a regular week, students will have an opportunity to earn up to 10 weekly points – or two points per day – for the quality of their participation in class.
- For example, a student may lose one or both points in a day for such infractions as having a phone out without permission during class or failing to bring the materials expected for class, such as a pencil or notebook.
- You are in high school and will be in college and/or the real world sooner than you know.
 - This portion of your grade is designed to help your overall preparedness.
 - If you show up for a college class or a job without preparation, the penalties are steeper than a lost point or two.
- Behavioral issues will also affect your Weekly Points. If you are given a detention or are sent to the office, you may also expect to lose all your points for the day.

Pass List

- This year we are keeping track of who leaves the classroom, when, where, and why.
- If you habitually leave the room – especially for long periods – you could risk landing on pass restriction.
- You had also better go where you tell me you are going.
- For example, if you say you are going to the restroom and I later hear from another teacher that you were causing a disturbance in his or her room at the other end of the building – especially if it is not near the destination you told me – then you will be subject to discipline that will include detention and loss of points for the day.

Late Homework Policy

- Homework loses 10% for every day an assignment is late.
- Homework is considered late if it is turned any time AFTER it was collected in class.
- I will accept late homework until the test for reduced credit.

For example: Terry does not have his 10-point homework assignment done when he comes to class. We finish class that day with a little time to spare and Terry turns it in five minutes before the bell rings to dismiss class. The assignment will be accepted as 10% late even though it is the same day. If Terry waits to turn it in at the beginning of class the next day, it could lose 20% of its original value.

Another example: On Thursday, Lindsay left her 20-point homework assignment at home that was due Thursday in class. She remembers to bring the assignment to class on Friday. All of Lindsay's answers were correct, but since it is one day late, she receives 18 points out of 20.

- **I will stop the point deductions once the assignment becomes worth only 50% of the total grade.** As important as it is to submit your homework on time, I believe it is more important that you complete it, so I still want you to have an incentive to do your work even if it is already late.

So let's imagine it has been a week since Lindsay's 20-point homework assignment was due. All of her answers were correct, but since the assignment is so late that it is worth only 50%, she receives 10 points out of 20.

Make-Up Work Policy

- My general rule is that for each day a student misses (and provided it is an EXCUSED absence), the student is permitted one day following his or her return to school to turn in the missing work.
- So, a student who misses one day is allowed one day following his or her return to school to turn in the work that was missed.
- Likewise, a student missing two days will be granted two days to turn in missing work following his or her return to school.
- The only work that does not have to be made-up are in-class assignments, such as a video or review game.

An example: Bill is absent on Monday and the class moves on to the next lesson in the chapter or unit. When Bill returns to school on Tuesday, he is expected to turn in the homework that was due on Monday. This is when Bill will receive the work he missed while absent (homework, notes, etc.). Since Bill was absent for only one day, he is permitted one day to turn in the missing work without it being counted late. In this scenario, Bill has until Wednesday to turn in the homework he missed due to his absence.

Keep in mind: If you miss school and it is recorded as an unexcused absence, you will receive a zero for all assignments collected and due on the day of the absence.

Make-Up Tests

- Students are expected to take any test missed due to an absence on the first day back at school, providing the student was present to receive a study guide.

For example: The teacher distributes a study guide on Monday for the test on Wednesday. Jamie is present on Monday and receives the study guide, but is absent on Wednesday for the test. Jamie returns to school on Thursday and **will** take the test because he was present to receive the study guide and knew there was going to be a test on Wednesday.

- As with regular make-up work, you must have an excused absence for the day of the test.
- As with homework, the grade will be recorded as a zero if you have an excused absence recorded for the day of the test.

Extra Credit

- Extra credit opportunities will be offered at various times during the term.

Cheating Policy

Cheating, Academic Dishonesty, and Plagiarism are defined in the Winchester High School Student Handbook as:

“Any attempt to get a grade on a test or assignment by using another person's work is academic dishonesty or cheating. Students who are detected using cheat sheets or plagiarizing (copying from other students or from published materials/submitting another person's work as though it were their own) will receive a Saturday Detention and a zero for that assignment. Any second occurrence may result in further discipline as determined by administration. Students who allow others to copy their work are also subject to disciplinary action and/or loss of grades for the assignments that they allow others to copy.”

For the purposes of our class, I also add the following to the above definition:

Cheating is any representation and/or submission of work that is not your own work when your assignment, project, or test is expected to be completely your own work.

However, group or partner work by its definition is going to be done collectively and includes shared knowledge.

- Even so, students are still expected to do work that is uniquely their own.
- Therefore, even if you are doing group or partner work, it does not become an excuse to copy an answer from the internet!

Unless I tell you otherwise, individual work is expected to be done **ON YOUR OWN AND IN YOUR OWN WORDS!**

Cheating is a serious offense in our class. One of the fundamental purposes of school is to learn and do your own work. By doing your own work ALL THE TIME, you can see how well you are doing and I can make an informed decision on how well you know the material.

Examples of cheating include but might not be limited to:

1. Copying another student's homework assignment.
2. Copying information from a website.
3. Writing answers on the tables before a test.
4. Looking at your phone while taking a test.
5. Talking to another student during a test.
6. Working together (not just asking another student for help) when the assignment is meant to be completed individually.

Penalties for cheating can vary in this class. Depending on the severity of the offense, a student will endure at least one of the following penalties, and possibly more:

1. Receive a zero for the assignment.
2. Be sent to the office.
3. Serve an after-school detention with the teacher.
4. Serve a Saturday detention as per Winchester High School policy.

Cheating often involves more than one person. One student helping another to cheat will result in each student involved enduring at least one of the penalties for cheating.

This can include one student slipping his or her paper for another student to copy. Another example could be if I receive identical papers and/or answers in which there is no other reasonable explanation for them being identical and word-for-word other than that one was copied. In this case as well, both papers can expect to receive zeroes.

There will also be a note put in TeacherEase stating that the reason for the zero in the gradebook is because papers and/or answers were identical.

Classroom Expectations

1. Students are expected to be on time for class and ready to learn. This means that you are responsible for bringing materials to class (book, notebook, pencil, Chromebook, etc.). Failure to do so will result in loss of point(s) for the day.
2. When meeting as a whole class, a student is expected to raise his or her hand if wishing to speak. Calling out answers is acceptable behavior only when the teacher says so.
3. Respect is given when it is received. This applies to language and behavior. It also applies to teachers. It is my duty to treat you with respect as well.
4. Truthfulness and honesty are expected at all times.
 - Cheating and any representation of work that is not yours will not be tolerated.
 - Other forms of dishonesty, such as lying, will receive disciplinary measures
5. Students will comply with the Winchester High School handbook at all times.

Classroom Rules

1. Keep all hands and other body parts to yourself. This includes no throwing of objects.
2. Electronic devices (phones, etc.) go in the pockets at the front of the room **at the beginning of class.**
 - Otherwise, the teacher must first give permission for them to be out.
3. Students and teacher alike will employ appropriate and respectful language at all times.
4. No food is allowed in the classroom. You may have water as long as it has a lid that secures at the top.
5. There is absolutely no cheating tolerated in this class.
 - This includes, but is not limited to copying another student's work or having an electronic device out without permission

Classroom Procedures

1. Homework is due and collected at the beginning of class. If it is turned in at the end of the class period, end of the school day, or a later day, the homework is considered late.
2. Students must be inside the classroom by the time the bell is finished ringing.
3. Any homework missed due to an absence must be made up. If a student misses a day of school, see the teacher to receive the missed work upon returning to school. The student will have one day to make up the work for each day absent.

Classroom Discipline

1. Discipline will be enforced as needed.
2. Normally there will be a procedure for dealing with student misbehavior:
 - Verbal warning
 - Detention with me after school
 - Office referral
 - Call home
3. However, certain offenses may be serious enough to immediately require a detention or office referral rather than a verbal warning. A student going through the discipline procedures can also expect a reduction in class participation points.
4. There may be times when the entire class or a portion of it requires punishment. These may become creative. These punishments may be used if I suspect one or more individuals are covering for an offender.

Tentative Class Schedule

Subject to change, the following is the order in which we will cover the topics in this class. Each unit will conclude with a test and you will have to complete a Constitution Test and/or final exam.

Unit 1: Origins of American government & Articles of Confederation

Unit 2: Constitutional Structures

Unit 3: Legislative Branch & Article I

Unit 4: Executive Branch & Article II

Unit 5: Judicial Branch & Article III

Unit 6: Amendments, Articles IV – VII of US Constitution, Illinois Government

Unit 7: Foreign Policy, National Defense, and International Relations