

CEC Middle College of Denver: Social Studies - Civics With Bonnie Hutchens, M.A.

Fall Semester, 2009

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Office Hours: As needed - contact to make arrangements

Main Office: 720-423-6600

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Required Course Materials: Textbooks and readings as distributed by the teacher.
Notebook, pens, pencils, materials as needed.

Course Description:

- A democratic and free society relies on the skills, intelligence, engagement and virtue of its citizens.
- Citizens must comprehend their rights, roles and responsibilities and engage in practices involved in being a citizen.
- As informed global citizens, individuals must analyze origins, structure, and functions of governments and their impacts on societies and citizens.

Course Competencies and Critical Skills:

Upon completion of this course, students should demonstrate knowledge and/or skill in the following areas. The student should be able to:

1. Research, formulate positions, and engages in appropriate civic participation to address local, state, national issues or policies.
2. Analyze goals and tools used by the United States in developing and implementing foreign policy.
3. Evaluate purposes of, and limitations of, the foundations, structures and functions of government.

Evaluation Methods and Class Management: to receive credit for this course you must finish all work with a D or better, turn your work in on time, and in the proper format, adhere to school attendance policies, and participate regularly in class.

Students may not have any more than four unexcused absences per nine weeks and no more than four tardies (excused and unexcused) per semester. Four unexcused absences in one month or ten in one year constitutes a “habitual truancy”. After 4 tardies, unexcused or excused, the student is required to serve a 30 minute detention with that classroom teacher. After 3 unexcused absences in one month, students will be referred by their teacher to the CEC Attendance Committee.

Kinds of Classwork:

Students will demonstrate competency in the standards through a variety of methods including: Essays, Performance Test, Group Presentations, Research, Lab, Projects, Homework, etc.

Late Work for Excused Absences: Students are allowed a minimum of two days for every day absent to make up missed work or make other arrangements. Remember my purpose is to provide opportunities to help your child to be successful.

Late Work for Unexcused Absences will be accepted but a grade/point penalty will be assessed.

Grading: All assignments will carry equal weight and points will be cumulative from the beginning of the semester to the end. There will be exceptions for weighting as designated by the teacher. For instance the final project and final exam will carry more weight for the course grade.

Grading Scale:	100-93% A
	92-90% A-
	87-89% B+
	83-86% B
	82-80% B-
	79-77% C+
	76-73% C
	72-70% C-
	69-60% D
	59-0% F

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is literary theft of another author's ideas and/or exact words, without giving proper credit to the source in both the text of your essay and on the Works Cited sheet. This rule is true of direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries. Plagiarism is a serious ethical offense and may be grounds for the student's failure in this class. Cheating of any kind is forbidden.

Cell Phones and electronic devices should be TURNED OFF while you are in class.

Class Assignments:

Week	Big Idea / Standard	Activities Assignments
1-5	Purpose of Government, Rights, Higher Law	Readings and Activities as assigned from: We The People, Foundations of Democracy, Project Citizen and other sources.
6-8	Roles, Responsibilities and Elections	Readings and Activities as assigned from: We The People, Foundations of Democracy, Project Citizen and other sources.
9-11	International Relationships and Foreign Policy	Readings and Activities as assigned from: We The People, Foundations of Democracy, Project Citizen and other sources.
12-16	Civic Participation and Public Policy	Readings and Activities as assigned from: We The People, Foundations of Democracy, Project Citizen and other sources.
16-17	Project Citizen Culmination	Presentations and Defense of Project Citizen Activity