

CIVICS AND ECONOMICS COURSE INFORMATION/SYLLABUS MS. THROWER

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Location: Trailer 1708

Planning Period: 4th

After School Tutorials and Detentions: Mondays

Additional School Tutorials and Make Up Work: By Appointment Only

The study of Civics and Economics (C&E) is to focus on the economic, legal, and political systems in our nation. The study of Civics and Economics falls under the category of Social Studies. Which means...the course will go beyond memorization of isolated facts to the development of *higher level thinking skills*, encouraging students to *make assessments and evaluations of past, present, and future events* and be able to *recognize cause and effect*. Opinions and thoughts based on well researched facts are highly encouraged, while developing critical thinking skills will help you succeed in this course but more importantly, in life!

Most frequently asked question: "Is this a hard class?"

If you can show me you can READ and you can THINK, you WILL pass this class. If you attempt all the work requested of you in this course to the best of your ability, **you will most likely make an A**. For students unafraid to THINK and DO, Ms. Thrower's classes are a breeze. For students who like others to think FOR them or for those students that choose not to challenge themselves, this can be the most difficult class they will ever have. **100% of students that fail this class make an active choice to NOT do work.**

Second most frequently asked question: "Is there an EOC test for this class?"

At the end of the prior school year, the North Carolina General Assembly (legislative branch!) voted to eliminate EOC tests for all Social Studies courses. All students will have a final exam, however, passing this test is not mandatory in order to pass the class. However, the test is worth 20% of your final grade...if you ask your math teacher to explain this, you'll understand that you probably do have to pass the test to pass the class.

Ask yourself: Did you or your parents make reading part of your life from elementary school until today? If yes, this class will not be difficult. If the answer is "no", you WILL need to stay extra motivated and develop your vocabulary skills further throughout this class. If you do not stay on top of vocabulary, this course can FEEL like it is in a different language. Learning new words is key to

understanding the concepts of this course. (And more importantly, do you WANT to have a 10th grade vocabulary when you are 40 years old? Do you want to go to a job interview and sound like you dropped out in the 10th grade? Probably not. My advice: LEARN the words requested of you!)

Course Syllabus: Civics and Economics

More detailed information on each objective will be given before we begin each unit. The amount of time we spend on each unit is flexible, depending on the pace student's can learn the material. Some units will be broken down into smaller units for easier understanding of the material.

Unit 1 - Historical Roots of American Democracy

(why did we screw over the Native Americans, enslave the Africans, and tell the British to take a hike?)

Unit 2 – Purpose, values and principles of American Democracy

(how is our government setup and why is the U.S. Constitution so important?)

Unit 3 – State and Local Government in North Carolina

(how can make REAL change in my community?)

Unit 4 – Active Citizenship, Politics and the Law

(are politicians really horrible human beings and did that policeman violate my rights?)

Unit 5 – Basics of Micro and Macroeconomics

(how is economics really just a psychology course in disguise?)

Unit 6 – Effective Citizenship

(am I going to make changes in my county or will I be a drag to everyone around me?)

The first 4 days of this course will focus on skills you can use to improve your reading comprehension, vocabulary, critical thinking ability, attention, technology skills, and organizational skills. Students come into high school with all different levels of these “life skills” as I call them...but to succeed in this course, it is a “must” you develop and use these every day. It ain't about brains in this class, it's about your motivation to SHOW ME WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF!

For more detail on course grading policy, see Handout B.