

# Government & Civics Syllabus

Mr. Jordan

Sycamore High School Social Studies Department

## CONTACT:

Room: T-167

E-Mail: [ajordan@syc427.org](mailto:ajordan@syc427.org)

Website: Google Classroom, Infinite Campus, Canvas, TCI, Remind, more TBA

Textbook: Government Alive! ([www.learnhci.com](http://www.learnhci.com))

Office Hours: 3<sup>rd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> hours

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a one-semester course designed to give students a general overview of the United States of America's system of government while incorporating a civics component which includes simulations of the democratic process, exposure to current and controversial issues and service learning. Passing this course is required by both Sycamore High School and the state of Illinois prior to high school graduation.

## COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1: Introduction to Government

- Chapter 1: Power, Politics and Authority
- Chapter 2: Comparing Forms of Government

Unit 2: Foundations of U.S. Government

- Chapter 3: Roots of American Democracy
- Chapter 4: The Constitution
- Chapter 5: The Bill of Rights
- Chapter 6: Federalism

Unit 3: Civics

- Chapter 7: Citizen Participation in Democracy
- Chapter 8: Political Organizations
- Chapter 9: Public Opinion and the Media
- Chapter 10: Campaigns and Elections

Units 4-7: Modern U.S. Government

- Unit 4 (Chapters 11/12): The Legislative Branch
- Unit 5 (Chapters 13/14): The Executive Branch
- Unit 6 (Chapters 15/16): The Judicial Branch
- Unit 7 (Chapters 17/18): The United States and the World

## CONSTITUTION TEST:

As part of this course you must pass a state-required constitution test. You are required to pass this test with at least a **70%** per Sycamore High School and the Social Studies Department. You will continue to take this test until you receive at least a 70% in order to graduate.

## PROJECTS & PRESENTATIONS:

As part of the state-required civics component for this course you must participate in simulations of the democratic process, be exposed to current and controversial topics and participate in service learning. During this semester you will participate in different projects involving current events, controversial issues, service learning and civics to fulfill these state requirements.

**CLASS RULES:**

- NO FOOD/DRINK:** This is not the cafeteria
- NO LEAVING OF CLASS:** You will be issued "Out of Class Passes" for use of the bathroom, to get a drink, use your locker, go to the nurse, etc. You may use this five times per semester. For each time you do not use the pass you will receive an extra credit point at the end of the semester.
- R.E.S.P.E.C.T:** Always show respect to myself, your classmates, and yourself.
- ACT LIKE AN ADULT:** You are a young adult and should act as such. If you act like an adult I will treat you like an adult. On the other hand, if you act like a child I will treat you like a child and you will meet the consequences.
- FOLLOW THE RULES:** All other classroom rules will follow the stated school policies regarding tardiness, absences, and disciplinary measures listed in your Student Handbook.

**TECHNOLOGY POLICY:**

All technological devices may only be used during permitted times in class. Technology should only be used for educational purpose during class time. Technology used inappropriately during assessments may result in a zero on the assessment. Failure to adhere to these expectations may lead to disciplinary results via the Student Handbook.

**RETAKE POLICY:**

Students have the option of retaking formative assessments (quizzes) and are encouraged to if they have failed them. They must go through an intervention process prior to the retake and the scores will be averaged.

**LATE WORK POLICY:**

- It will be taken for half credit if it is over a day late from the previous school day
- Unexcused absences may result in a zero for that day's work

**GRADING:**

A+ = 98-100%	A = 93-97%	A- = 90-92%
B+ = 87-89%	B = 83-86%	B- = 80-82%
C+ = 77-79%	C = 73-76%	C- = 70-72%
D+ = 67-69%	D = 63-66%	D- = 60-62%
F = 59% or lower		

**GRADE SCALE:**

TYPE	WEIGHT	DEFINITION
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS	32%	Unit Tests
FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS	24%	Quizzes
PRACTICE ASSESSMENTS	24%	In/Out of Class Work
SEMESTER FINAL EXAM	20%	Final Exam

**Please read the statement below and sign beneath it.**  
***"I have read the syllabus and understand all stated terms."***

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_