

Honors Civics Literacy Syllabus

fall 2025

Ms. Bethea-Brown

cbbrown@haywood.k12.nc.us

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a deeper study of the governmental and political systems of North Carolina and the United States. In Unit I students will examine the various aspects of U.S. citizenship. Examples include; requirements for citizenship, rights and responsibilities of citizens, and immigration. Unit two allows for an examination of the Constitutional underpinnings of American democracy, with a focus on enlightenment theory, causes of the American Revolution, the Articles of Confederation, and the formation of the U.S. Constitution. In Unit 3 the concept of federalism is explored through a study of government structures. Elections and the role of the media and political action groups is the focus of Unit 4. Units 5 and 6 explore mechanisms for changing the US government system through public policy and judicial interpretation, respectively.

This is a challenging course that will require you to take greater responsibility for your learning. You will be engaged in problem solving, critical analysis and reflective thinking, both as an individual and as part of a group. The desired outcome of this course is that you will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible and effective citizens.

Units of Study

Unit 1: Citizenship

Unit 2: Founding Principles and Philosophies

Unit 3: Federalism

Unit 4: Elections and Linkage Institutions

Unit 5: Public Policy

Unit 6: The Legal System - Equal Protection Under the Law

Instructional Materials and Methods

Throughout the semester you will have individual and group activities in which you investigate the world, communicate ideas, and recognize the perspectives of others. Some of the instructional materials and methods that you will use are listed below.

- Scholarly Articles w/questions
- Primary Source Documents w/questions
- Videos/Documentaries w/questions
- Problem Solving
- Discussions
- Projects

Assessments and Grading Policy

Informal and formal assessments will take place throughout each unit. These include, but are not limited to, daily assignments and class discussions.

Grading

- I will **NOT** grade all assignments
- If you see '**Letter Grade**' at the top of an assignment this means that it will be carefully graded.
- Some assignments will fall under the '**Work Completion**' category. This is an effort grade. I will look at the assignment to determine how thoroughly and accurately it has been completed. (Annotations, thorough responses, etc.)
 - The numerical value of all 'work completion' assignments will be added up and divided by the number of 'work completion' assignments. This is your grade! **It will count twice! (2 Grades)**
 - **Note:** You will not be told which assignments fall under the 'work completion' category.

Classwork and Homework

Due to the enormous amount of material covered in Civics it is very important that you complete all of your classwork on time. Any assignment not completed in class must be completed as homework. **It is your responsibility to be prepared for class and to participate in class discussions.**

Meeting Deadlines and Absences

Due dates for classwork assignments need to be met. If for any reason you are unable to complete an assignment on time, it is your responsibility to contact me in advance. Although I am willing to work with you in these situations, **points will be deducted** for any assignment that is not turned in on time. For each day the assignment is late, **5 points** will be deducted from your grade. **Once we move on to another unit, work from the previous unit will not be accepted.**

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the work that you missed. Haywood County policy will be followed for make-up work. Points will not be deducted if assignments are completed according to this policy.

Classroom Rules/Guidelines

1. No talking when the teacher or other classmates are talking (Respect)
2. Be on time and on task
3. Be prepared for class
 - a. Assignments completed and ready for discussion
 - b. Headphones for videos
 - c. Charged iPads
4. No cell phones - **(They need to be put away!)**
5. Clean up after yourself
6. Always try your hardest
7. Have a Positive Attitude
8. Participate! Participate! Participate!
9. Agree to disagree!
10. Be willing to make mistakes -that is how you learn
11. Use the bathroom before class starts. If you have an emergency and need to use the bathroom your cell phone needs to stay in the classroom.

AEO (Academic Enrichment Opportunity)

Throughout the week you will have academic enrichment opportunities for your high school classes during the extended lunch period. If you maintain a grade **above an 80** and have all of your assignments turned in you will **not** be required to attend 'Academic Enrichment' for Civics. However, if your grade slips **below an 80** and/or you have assignments that are past due, you **will be required** to attend **two** 'Academic Enrichment' sessions per week in my classroom on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and/or Fridays** . **This is not an option!**

Attendance Policy and Tardies

- You are allowed to have 6 absences (excused or unexcused) per semester
 - Additional absences require make up time and/or the appeal process. You can make up 7,8, and 9 but will be required to appeal for credit if you have 10 or more absences.
- 3 tardies = 1 absence (Up to 6 tardies & 2 absences)
 - If you have more than 6 tardies you will be referred to Ms. Fox and will be assigned lunch detention.
- It is your responsibility to be punctual and prepared for class. I suggest that you arrive to class early so you can access your devices and assignments before class starts. If you are not in class on time you will be marked tardy even if you contact me in advance.

Google Classroom and Remind Codes

Period	Google Classroom	Remind (Text 81010)
1st Period (8:30 - 9:50)	wodxs4xk	@4befbada4g

--	--	--