

Western Guilford High School  
Mr. Shawn Reagin  
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Social Studies Department  
2022-2023 Honors Civics  
336-316-5800 ext. 595626

## **SCOPE**

In Honors Civics, students learn about how democracy creates a government of the people. To accomplish the goals of civic literacy we will dissecting founding principles of U.S. government, evaluating our role through civic engagement, and analyzing how the generations of Americans have adapted the ideals of government. My role as your teacher is to be a facilitator of that exploration and allow you the student to see different perspectives and formulate your own interpretations of the grand experiment established by our founding fathers.

## **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

- Students will learn to generalize, from historical investigations, so that they can apply this information to make predictions regarding current events.
- Course participants will learn to assess the validity of conflicting accounts, of historic events to, and draw their own conclusions using available primary source documents.
- Students will learn to recognize subjective and biased historic narratives given the perspectives of the sources.
- Critical analysis skills will be developed using a wide range of primary sources which include music, poetry, cartoons, text, artwork, and photographs.
- Students will learn how to prepare for college courses.

## **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

1. Be on time- please take care of bathroom, water, and grooming needs before class
2. Show respect for yourself, classmates, and teacher
3. Be prepared: you need the right attitude, an open mind, and the right materials
4. Be responsible, keep up with your assignments. (late work will be penalized)
5. No food or drink in the classroom except water. **NO PEANUTS OF ANY KIND**
6. Stay organized: we cover several topics over this course
7. Communication: ask questions if things are unclear
8. Our common goal is successful completion of this class year! I want all of you to have a fun and productive year in my classes, and I will do everything within my power to ensure that all of you have the same opportunities for academic success. I assume, likewise, that all of you wish to do well in my class and that will be reflected in your preparation and attitude in my classroom.

## **TEXT(S); ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCE MATERIALS**

All texts you will need for this course will be provided through our Canvas page. Check this page and your WGHS issued email address frequently!

The following supplies should satisfy a student's needs over the course of the school year. It is likely, however, that additional items may need to be purchased to complete projects and other more involved assignments. Those items would be largely discretionary so they will not be listed below.

1, 2, or 3 inch 3-ring binder; 1 package black or blue pens; 1 package #2 pencils; 1 package college-ruled paper; 1 5 subject spiral bound notebook

## **EVALUATION: METHODS/STANDARDS**

### **Grading Policy**

I will grade all work you turn in according to the handbook. Two days for small assignments, three days for quizzes, and up to two weeks for large projects, tests, or AP material. All work will be turned in handwritten unless otherwise indicated. We will practice writing DBQs, LEQs, and SAQs frequently. There are two categories in this class:

**Your Quarter Grade will be calculated as follows:**

Process	60%
(classwork, homework, participation, quizzes, etc.)	
Product	40%
(tests, projects, etc.)	
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Late Work Policy**

Students who turn in work late without a legitimate reason will be penalized 10% per day late up to five days late. After five days the assignment will turn to a zero. Refer to the student handbook.

**Quizzes**

Quizzes must be completed within the class period (turned in when the bell rings) unless accommodations are warranted by documentation from the WGHS administration team. All of our quizzes will be done in class via pen and paper or our LMS. Quizzes will occur at least bi-weekly to make sure all students are keeping current with the class material.

You are subject to pop quizzes periodically throughout the year as I see fit. These will often occur when I believe few students have done the readings or if the class becomes too chatty.

**Tests**

**Tests must be completed within the class period (turned in when the bell rings) unless accommodations are warranted by documentation from the WGHS administration team.** Tests will typically only occur at the end of the quarter and will be based on class content. They may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions – mostly AP skill-based assignments. You should be prepared with a blue or black pen and a #2 pencil for any test. All of our tests will be done in class via pen and paper or our LMS.

**Cheating**

Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated! If you are caught cheating on tests, quizzes, or homework, I will record a score of zero for that work. If someone is helping you cheat they will also receive a zero for that work. If you are caught cheating on a test or quiz I will also notify your parents/guardians and you will receive a referral to the administration. This is no joking matter. Especially in an AP setting, your integrity supersedes any benefits of cheating.

**Microsoft Teams**

You need to be familiar with Microsoft Teams in the event we need to go virtual for COVID, weather, or other reasons. If you find any challenges with the volume or camera on my end, you may unmute yourself and get my attention. Otherwise, you are to remain muted so that we don't hear doorbells, animals, baby siblings, etc.... in the background.

**Respectful Behavior Policy**

**Minor Offenses**

Examples: Talking loudly (this would be any time your voice is louder than mine), speaking to classmates at inappropriate times, leaving seat w/out permission, food or drink (including gum), bell-ringing, sleeping, passing notes, disrespect for peers, playing games on calculators, other class work in my class, texting, use of make-up, purses on desks, etc.

Consequences: Repeat of minor offenses will be subject to a 15-minute classroom detention before or after school. This must be served within five class days. In addition, the following sanctions will apply:

- Food or drink will be thrown away.
- “Sleepers” will be timed and will be required to serve an equal after-school detention **THAT SAME DAY**.
- Notes and contraband (including phones, other class work, etc.) will be confiscated and subject to school policy.

### **Major Offenses**

Examples: Insubordination, profanity, drugs, tobacco, defiance, alcohol, weapons, gambling, vandalism, property damage, fighting, sexual harassment, or assault.

Consequences: Immediate referral to administration and consequent disciplinary procedure.

### **Cell Phones**

All phones must be placed in the front of the room in the cell phone caddy, on silent, every class period! If your phone rings or vibrates in class, even if it is one of your parents, I will confiscate the phone and return it to you after school. ***The confiscation policy also applies to texting during the class period, or even checking the time of day.*** Three offenses will lead to a 30-minute after school detention for each additional infraction, in addition to seizure of phone. ***You may not charge your phones in the classroom since it has been my experience that the allowance creates unwarranted distractions.***

### **Laptops and other Electronic Devices**

You are expected to have your laptop in class **every day** since we will be using them for lessons, research, assessments, and other activities. Your laptop should be fully charged every day, since there will not be an opportunity to charge it in class. Failure to be prepared will mean that you will need to complete a hard-copy remedial assignment as a substitute for your grade. The assignment will be due the following school day. In most cases you will be given a DBQ prompt to write, so you will start in class. You may only have your laptop active when we are using it for a classroom activity. If you are using your laptop at a non-authorized time, you will receive a **30-minute detention** after school, during your lunch, or before school. This detention policy applies to social networking, shopping, watching videos, or other activities that are not part of the class lesson, but are being engaged with during the lesson.

### **Attendance Policy**

We are all expected to be in class, and ready for business (in our seats), every day when the appropriate bell rings. If you are not ***in the classroom*** when the start bell finishes sounding, you will be marked as tardy. You will be warned the first time this happens each quarter, your parents/guardians will be called the second time, you will serve AM Detention the third time, and additional violations during the quarter will be handled with progressive discipline including after-school detention. You may not leave the classroom 10 minutes after class begins or 10 minutes before class ends.

Your attendance will be tracked and updated regularly on PowerSchool. If you are absent from a class meeting you will need to contact a classmate to copy their notes from class. This policy applies to all classroom absences regardless of the cause of the absence. I will not provide digital copies of my notes to compensate for absences.

All make-up work, including tests, labs, and quizzes must be completed within 5 class days of your return to school if your absence is excused. You will not be allowed to make the missing work up if you are

unable to provide documentation that codes the absence as excused. **You may make up missed quizzes or tests on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30pm, or at other times before or after school by appointment. Students will not be permitted to make work up during the day since it is disruptive to planning and other classes. I will post a grade of "zero" until missing work is turned in.** I reserve the right to assign an exempt grade (X) for make-up assignments at my discretion. Use a sticky note attached to your make-up homework to let me know why it was not turned in on the due date (absence, late, field trip, game, etc.).

### **Access to Help**

If you have any questions about the course material that you were not able to resolve in class, please visit my classroom before or after school as our situation allows.

### **Welcome to My Classroom**

I am confident that all of you will make an effort to be successful in my class during the 2022-2023 school year. If we work together this will be a meaningful and productive academic endeavor for all of us. This is sure to be a challenging year. I want you to succeed in my class, at Western Guilford, and in life. Please feel open to chat with me about class, history, or other academic topics. I liked school so much that I decided to keep going, seemingly forever. I hope that I can help you all find your own academic passion in this class and beyond.

The course schedule on the following pages are essential to keeping us on task. Please do not lose it.

*Thank you,  
Mr. Shawn Reagin*

General Schedule & Important Dates.  
2022-2023

Reagin's Honors Civics

### **Civic Literacy**

This class is broken up into 3 major topics, government, history, and economics. We will begin the year with examining how the American government operates and factors that influence the democratic republic. We will investigate the history of the United States as a functioning nation. Finally, we will learn how individuals, businesses, and government operate and are influenced by a market economy. The units of study are as follows:

#### **Curriculum Units of Study**

- **Foundations of Democracy**
- **Individual Rights**
- **Politics and Political Parties**
- **Citizenship and Civic Participation**
- **Contemporary Issues (Domestic & Foreign Policies)**
- **The Constitution**
- **Federal, State, and Local Government**
- **Laws, Voting, and Public Policy**
- **United States and the World**

Student Name (Please Print Name): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return by the second day of school.**

**Attention Parents- PLEASE READ!!!**

In Civics Literacy there are class debates and discussions on the issues that we face in America. This class will have an inclusive atmosphere. However, we will discuss many controversial and potentially triggering topics and ideas from the history of the United States including, but not limited to, war, violence, state-violence, racism, sexism, slavery, discrimination, poverty, genocide, etc. An informed and intellectual discussion of these issues may be triggering at times for some students, but their discussion is necessary for education. We cannot shy away from events of the past and the classroom is the place to contextualize and better understand these issues.

I look forward to meeting you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, concerns, or comments. You play a vital role in the success of your child in Civic Literacy. Please sign off that you have read through the syllabus with your child. I look forward to having a great year.

Thank You!

Shawn M. Reagin

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information:**

Parent/Legal Guardian 1 (Please Print Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to reach you (phone or email): \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Legal Guardian 2 (Please Print Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to reach you (phone or email): \_\_\_\_\_

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Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Please sign below stating that you acknowledge and understand the expectations and requirements of this course as outlined in the syllabus.**

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

Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_