

# **Foundations of the USA and NC: Civic Literacy Syllabus**

**Teacher:** Mr. Blevins      **Room:** 116    **Date:** Spring 2024    **Email:** [blevinn@gcsnc.com](mailto:blevinn@gcsnc.com)

**Course Objectives:** Students will study the purposes, principles, and practices of American government as established by the Constitution. Students are expected to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and how to exercise these rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government. . This course will follow the North Carolina Essential Standards for Civic Literacy.

**Text:** *Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics and You*

**Supplies:** Paper, Pen, Notebook, Colored Pencils

**Grading:** Grades are calculated using total points. (Final Exam counts as 10%):

- Tests and Projects-50 %
- Homework, Quizzes, Classwork - 50 %

**Tests and Projects:** Tests will be given at the end of each unit. In longer units, a test may be given midway through the unit. Rubrics will be used for essays and projects (both individual and group projects). These will be provided to the students when the assignment is given.

**Homework, Quizzes, Classwork:** Homework will be completed online and is expected on the due date; late work may not be accepted. Classwork and Quizzes are generally completed in class day of.

**Plagiarism and AI:** Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's work, ideas, or words without proper attribution. This includes copying text, images, or other content from any source, including books, articles, websites, or other students' work, and presenting it as your own. This includes using AI on assignments. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will receive a Zero on the assignment.

**Make up Work:** Students are responsible for making up work they have missed while they have been out of class. Absences include illness, family emergency, field trips, sporting events, and any time spent out of class. Students have three days after returning to school to inquire about missing work. Students will have one week to submit missing assignments due to an absence.

**Late Work:** Homework and daily work is due on the dates that are given when assigned. Late work will receive a 10% penalty for each day that it is late.

**Bathroom Policy:** Once the bell rings and class has started, students will not be allowed to leave the classroom during the first 15 minutes of class nor during the last 15 minutes of class. Bathroom passes may be used after or before the first and last 15 minutes of class. There is only one bathroom pass for the class so only one person is allowed out in the hall at a time.

**Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices:** Students are permitted to use their cell phones and other electronic devices during non instructional times between classes and lunch. Refrain from using phones and laptops during class unless the lesson requires, or you are given specific permission. Use of electronics is not allowed at all while tests are administered. Use of electronics during a test will result in a Zero. Please charge your laptop at home each evening. I do not have a laptop or device charger available for use and the number of outlets available for charging are limited.

**Tardy Policy:** Warning bells are set to ring one minute before classes start. Students who are not in the room AND seated in their seats when the second bell rings will be considered tardy. Frequent tardiness will result in discipline referrals per the SGHS Student Handbook

**Absences:** See information in the Student-Parent Handbook under the topics of “Choices” and “Student Attendance Policy.” Please make every effort to attend class when healthy. If you are absent, please continue to work on homework that is available on Canvas.

**Rules:**

- Be on task from “bell-to-bell.” You must be in your seat when the bell rings; do not “line-up” at the door before the end of class
- Follow directions the first time.
- Bring all necessary materials to class every day.
- Respect the rights of all at all times.
- Avoid disrupting instructional time for any reason (tardiness, poor behavior, sleeping, texting, excessive trips out of the room, etc.)
- The School Cell Phone Policy will be followed and enforced. Cell Phones are not to be out without specific permission. This includes charging and “Checking the time”.

**Consequences for inappropriate behavior:**

1) Warning    2) Choices    3) Parent Contact    4) Discipline Form

Communication: The best way to reach me is through my email [blevinn@gcsnc.com](mailto:blevinn@gcsnc.com). I check my email multiple times throughout the day and will respond as quickly as possible.