

**Spaulding High School 2021-2022  
Course Syllabus**

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**Course Description:**

Civics is the study of government and citizenship, specifically in the United States. It is a nine week required course in which students will investigate the foundations and purposes of government at the federal, state, and local levels, along with understanding how Americans interact with their government on a daily basis, and vice versa. Students will examine the rights, duties, and responsibilities of a citizen at each level and participate in an authentic, inquiry based culminating activity.

**Units of Study:** *Each unit is roughly 6 class days, except for the final project, which will take roughly 10 class days.*

*Unit #1: Citizenship & Structure of Government*

*Unit #2: Legislative Branch*

*Unit #3: Executive Branch*

*Unit #4: Judicial Branch*

*Unit #5: Bill of Rights*

*Unit #6: State and Local Government*

*Unit #7: Citizenship in Vermont Interview Project (final presentation on last day of class)*

**Requirements for Credit:**

1. A majority of the reporting standards are completed at a Proficient or Exemplary level.
2. Citizenship in Vermont Interview Project is completed at Proficient or Exemplary level.

**Civics Standards:**

There are 5 standards in Civics that will be assessed. The performance indicators, or the projects that will be assessed for each standard, are posted on Google Classroom:

<b>Standard Title:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Civic Virtue	D2.Civ.7 and 8 9-12 Identify and evaluate the virtues that promote civic participation.

Explaining Civic and Political Institutions	D2.Civ.4 9-12 Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and that are still contested.
Processes Rules and Laws	D2.Civ.12 9-12 Analyze how people use and challenge local, state, and national laws to address a variety of public issues.
Content	CS1 - D2.Civ.1.9-12. Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of local, state, tribal, and national political institutions.
Participation and Collaboration	<p><b>D2.Civ.7.9-12. Apply civic virtues and democratic principles when working with others.</b></p> <p><i>**This will be assessed through the Final “Civic Engagement Mini Project.” All students are required to interview an active citizen in their community.</i></p>

### Learning Tasks:

- Those assignments not designated as assessments are considered “learning tasks” and may include both in-class and out-of-class work.
- Learning tasks serve to further your own learning, prepare you to fully participate in class, and guide you toward proficiency in the course standards.
- Completion of learning tasks allows your teacher to monitor and provide feedback on your progress towards proficiency.
- Some Learning Tasks are required prerequisites for accessing an assessment.
  - For example, an assessment may state that “Unit 2, Learning Tasks 1,2,3 are completed” in order to earn proficiency.

### Practice and Assessment:

Knowledge of course content will be reinforced and be assessed in both formal and informal quizzes, projects, and writing assignments. Shorter, informal quizzes, writing assignments, activities, and writing assignments will not be assessed as individual assessments, but rather will be required to complete a final assessment. Assessment rubrics will identify which practice assignments are required for each respective assessment. Students will be clearly informed in class and/or through Google Classroom when an assignment will be formally assessed.

### Reassessment:

Students who have not achieved proficiency are encouraged to review the material and skills and to reassess. Students may be asked to provide evidence that they have prepared for the

reassessment. Reassessments are usually done during advisory, or before or after school when mutually convenient. Some reassessments may be done as take home assignments. I do not leave comments on Google Classroom-I want to have a discussion to talk about what needs improvement.

### **Non-Negotiables Classroom Expectations:**

- **COMMUNICATE WITH ME!** If you are having any kind of difficulty with an assignment please please PLEASE discuss it with me BEFORE it is due so we can make proper arrangements!!!
  - **I PROMISE** it will be easier the sooner you come to me for support. Reach out. Via email, at the end of class, let me know. I will work with you!!!
- **CATCH UP ON YOUR WORK!** Students missing work due to an excused absence are responsible for making arrangements to get their missing work from me, preferably before you miss class.
- **STAY PREPARED!** It is expected that you will be on time and prepared for class. Maintain a Google Drive Folder, provide for numerous handouts, and save everything. It is not necessary to bring the textbook to class.
- **PHONES AWAY!** Cell phones go in the cell phone rack by the front door, where they will stay the whole time. If I see your cell phone out it is an automatic write up.
- **CHROMEBOOKS OUT!** Chromebooks should be brought to class and sufficiently charged. I have one or two extra chargers but no more than that.
- **USE A PASS!** A pass is required if you come to class tardy and leave early. Please notify me before class begins. When you use the restroom, take a pass from the door with you.
- **BE KIND & RESPECTFUL!** There is zero tolerance for disrespect or rude behavior. Be kind and respectful to yourself, your peers, and your teachers.
- **ASK FOR EXTRA HELP!** Need extra support? I will be available via email and advisory as well as during our in-person classes. Please allow up to 2 school days for a reply to an email. I will be as quick as I can in response, but know that certain times of the school year are busier than others. I will reply to emails and requests for help in the order that they were received.

### **Academic Honesty**

1. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Copying work from another student (past or present)
  - b. Sharing one's work or password to Google Classroom with another student
  - c. Copying work from the internet without proper citation and/or paraphrasing.
  - d. Re-submitting previously submitted work
2. Infractions will result in Office Referrals and communication with parent/guardian for

all students involved. Infractions will be documented and tracked across the school in all of a student's classes.

3. Infraction consequences may include:
  - a. Redoing the assignment
  - b. Loss of ability to earn Exemplary on those indicators/assignments
  - c. Loss of embedded honors (Academic Dishonesty is not honorable)
  - d. Loss of eligibility in NHS or Scholarships
  - e. Failure in the course