Marine Science Magnet High School

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SOC0310-Civics & Environmental Stewardship
2024-2025

Required Texts/Readings:
Short readings may be assigned by the teacher throughout the year.

Course Description:
This course will focus on the need, purpose, and structure of government, the law-making process, an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and current events. Emphasis is placed on the roles of the government at the federal, state, and local levels. Each major unit of study will also highlight the roles of government and citizens in maintaining the environment and solving environmental problems. Students will work to develop skills in reading, writing, and accountable talk through argumentative writing assignments and class discussion.

Materials Needed:
Three Ring Binder or two-pocket folder. Pens/Pencils, highlighters.

Classroom Attendance, Academic and Behavior Expectations
All MSMHS students are required to uphold the attendance, academic and behavioral expectations outlined in the school's Student/Parent Handbook which can be found on the MSMHS website.

Retake / Revision Policy

- All students will be allowed to retake/revise all interim and unit summative assessments (with the possible exception of ECE assessments).
- Retakes/revisions on any summative assessments must be completed within **2 weeks of when the assessment was returned to the student** or before the end of the quarter, whichever comes first.
- Students who want the opportunity to retake/revise a unit summative assessment must have completed all **scored** and **graded** assignments before taking the original summative assessment or the end of the quarter, whichever comes first. In addition, any part of a unit summative that is done outside of class, must be complete and turned in on time in order to be eligible for a retake/revision.
- Retakes/revisions are re-evaluations of learning; therefore, students earn the new grade not an average of the two grades, regardless of whether the new grade is higher or lower than the original.

*Note: There are no retakes/revisions for Midterms or Finals. Students with IEP or 504 accommodations for extended time should work with their teacher and/or case manager to determine appropriate application of their accommodations to this policy.

Late Work

Missing graded work/formative assessments must be completed, fully and accurately, before the unit summative assessment due date or the end of the quarter, whichever comes first, in order to receive credit. Any missing work will receive a 0 in PowerSchool until it is turned in before the summative assessment. Ater a unit summative assessment, work cannot be made up and will remain a 0 in PowerSchool.

Additionally, all Social Studies courses will abide by the following Late Work Policy: No points will be deducted for late work leading up to the summative assessment. No points will be deducted for late summative assessments, BUT summative assessments submitted late cannot be revised, and summative assessments not submitted within two weeks of the deadline or by the end of the quarter, whichever comes first, will receive a 0.

Extra Help:

Students interested in receiving extra help from teachers, or in meeting with their teacher before or after school, need to schedule a mutually agreed upon time to meet with their teacher. Teachers may require specific procedures for requesting appointments for extra help. Please know that teachers will be unable to meet with students on Wednesdays due to regularly scheduled faculty meetings.

Cell Phones

Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school, however, they must be stored in the designated location in each classroom throughout the block, including study hall. Students may not bring cell phones with them when they leave the classroom for any reason. Students may also be required to turn smart watches or other devices to designated locations during class at the request of the teacher. Students found to have violated these expectations will be required to turn their cell phone into school administration. Repeated offenses may result in escalated consequences. Cell phones may not be used in restrooms for any reason. Cell phones may be used before, during lunch, or after school hours.

Grade/Grade Reporting:

Overall evaluation in a course is measured in a number of ways in the form of formative and summative assessments.

MSMHS uses the following language for communicating how assignments will be scored and represented in PowerSchool:

- "Graded" – The assignment is evaluated for accuracy (not completion), is given a numeric score, is entered in PowerSchool and is included in the quarter average.
- "Scored" – The assignment is evaluated for accuracy (not completion), is given a numeric score, may be entered into PowerSchool, but is not included in quarter average.
- "Recorded" – The assignment is marked as completed or not completed, not given a numeric score, may be entered into PowerSchool, but is not included in quarter average.

Course grades are calculated by using the following percentages:

Q1 = 20%
Q2 = 20%
Midterms = 10%
Q3 = 20%
Q4 = 20%
Finals = 10%

The following table shows the letter grades equivalent to numerical grades and GPA.

Letter	Numerical Equivalent	GPA Equivalent	Honors Weighting	AP/ECE Weighting
A+	97-100	4.3	4.52	4.73
A	93-96	4.0	4.20	4.40
A-	90-92	3.7	3.89	4.07
B+	87-89	3.3	3.47	3.63
B	83-86	3.0	3.15	3.30
B-	80-82	2.7	2.84	2.97
C+	77-79	2.3	2.42	2.53
C	73-76	2.0	2.10	2.20
C-	70-72	1.7	1.79	1.87
D+	67-69	1.3	1.37	1.43
D	63-66	1.0	1.05	1.10
D-	60-62	0.7	0.74	0.77
F	50-59	0.0	0.0	0.0

Academic Integrity:

All work submitted by students should be a true reflection of their effort and ability. If submitted work or tests are not, then the student has manifested unacceptable academic behavior.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as intentionally or unintentionally presenting another's work as your own. Any source material (electronic, written, verbal) accessed to complete an assignment must be cited. Plagiarism includes the following:

- Copying verbatim or blending source material with your own without proper attribution,
- Paraphrasing source materials or borrowing ideas, terms, or concepts without acknowledging the source,
- Inventing sources or false attributions for sources,
- Supplying/selling your work to another or purchasing/copying another's work.

Cheating

Cheating is defined as copying all or part of an assignment or assessment or allowing another to copy your work. It is also doing someone's work or having someone else do your work. Cheating includes the following:

- Using unauthorized materials, devices, or assistance of any kind to complete your work or assessment, including on-line transfers,
- Collaborating on a task without the teacher's authorization, as well as providing or receiving information so as to give/gain an unfair advantage,
- Aiding another in cheating.

Other Academic Misconduct

Other forms of serious academic misconduct include:

- Altering grades,
- Stealing or obtaining test/assessment materials or answers,
- Submitting the same (or nearly the same) work for more than one class without disclosure or approval,
- Falsifying information on school related documents and forms.

ANY behavior that can be defined as cheating/plagiarism represents a violation of mutual trust and respect essential to education at MSMHS. Students suspected of cheating should expect to be questioned by their teacher. Students violating this rule are subject to the following penalties:

- Re-do of the assignment, notification to parents/caretakers; disciplinary consequence, written summary of event and action taken given to administration.
- If a student is found to have cheated/plagiarized a second time or is involved in a particularly serious act of cheating/plagiarism, the student will be referred to administration for appropriate penalties beyond those listed above. Additional penalties include such consequences as notification to award and scholarship committees; suspension from class or school and notification to the student's prospective colleges; loss of or disqualification from honors/privileges and positions (e.g. NHS, school leadership position).

Course Unit Outline - Unit Title and Tentative Dates:
Note: Teacher has discretion to change throughout the year.

Unit I – Communities and Social Justice September - October 2024
Enduring Understandings

- Establishing a resilient and equitable community provides greater opportunities for growth, accountability, and advocacy.
- Education gives people the power to dismantle injustices in communities.
- Being an informed follower can be just as powerful as being an informed leader.

Unit II – Citizenship and Environmental Stewardship November- December 2024
Enduring Understandings

- Good citizens meet civic responsibilities to society and the natural environment.
- Organizations and documents are established and created in order to proclaim the natural rights of all peoples.

Midterm Exam

Unit III – Government and Political Participation January- February 2024
Enduring Understandings

- People exchange some of their freedom for protection from the government.
- The relationship between citizens and their government varies by the political/economic system they live under.
- Political parties are essential to American democracy because they provide individual citizens with voices to enact change.

Unit IV – The Constitution and the Bill of Rights March- April 2024
Enduring Understandings

- The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and provides the structure for the federal government.
- In order to protect citizen's rights as outlined in the Bill of Rights, the powers of the government must remain limited.

Unit V – Three Branches of Government April- May 2024
Enduring Understandings

- The roles and powers of the President granted in the Constitution have expanded over time. The President of the United States is indirectly elected by his/her citizens.
- The large system of the federal bureaucracy makes the executive branch the largest of the three branches of government, operating at the federal, state, and local levels of government to ensure that laws are carried out.
- Congress is a bicameral system of representative government that preserves democratic values and represents the needs of the people at the federal, state, and town levels.
- The lawmaking process is intentionally cumbersome in order to ensure that each law is thoroughly considered.
- A two-party system may cause Congress to polarize and become much less effective in performing its duties.
- The Supreme Court's primary duty is to interpret the Constitution.
- School law continues to evolve as students use the judicial system to challenge the rules of their institutions.

- The Judicial system strives to maintain democratic values by presuming innocence until one is proven guilty.

Final Exam