



# American Citizenship

## *Course Syllabus: 2019-2020*

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### Course Description

Welcome to Global Citizenship, class of 2020! The second semester of this class will focus on Global Issues and Current Events. What do you know? What should you know? What do you believe? Successful completion of this course will assist you in becoming an effective contributing member of several communities (local, national, and international).

Class discussions, textual analysis, activities and projects encourage students to make connections throughout the course: connections between historical events, connections from past to present, and connections to personal experiences.

As the instructor, I make conscious decisions about course content and themes for exploration. We will follow the basic outline listed below:

### Spring Units of Study

- I. Human Rights
- II. Globalization and Economic Systems
- III. Sustainability

### Materials

While I will not check off materials for this course it is highly recommended that each student maintain a three-ring binder, a spiral notebook and writing materials. Highlighters are strongly recommended for “interactive reading” activities. Additionally, it is recommended that students have colored pencils or markers. Students are responsible for having all basic materials to function in class each day. They are also expected to keep notes and their work throughout the semester. Not doing so has the potential to negatively affect their grade as they may not have access to important information to study from later in the semester.

### Expectations & Policies

**Attendance:** Due to the discussion format of this course, students need to attend class everyday. Assigned readings happen frequently, quizzes occur very often, tests and projects are large, lecture notes grow daily, and class discussions are evaluated. Although school policy (see Student Handbook) allows students to make up work from absences, the pace of the class will not slow down to let absent students catch up. An absent student is left to his or her own initiative to catch up; I will not hunt students down to remind them of deadlines.

**Major test dates are pre-announced. I expect perfect attendance on these dates.**

\*Exceptions will be made for documented illnesses or pre-arranged absences.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to do their own work; free of plagiarism, copying, cheating, or any other form of dishonesty. Students failing to maintain integrity will receive a grade of **ZERO** on all related tests/assignments and face progressive discipline as outlined in the Student Handbook.

**Presence and Participation:** The success of this course and the success of students both depend on students being physically and mentally present and engaging in active participation. The grading policy is designed to reflect each student’s willingness and effectiveness in class discussions as well as their presence during class. Presence does not only mean good attendance. I have had students who miss several days of class due to prolonged illness or other complications and I understand these situations and will work with any student who needs additional support. However, being consistently tardy, truant, using your device inappropriately, or creating distractions for others in the room are all examples of not being mentally present during class. Simply put you should be here and should participate in class everyday that you can be.

**Late Work and Extra Credit:** I do not accept late work. Sorry but you are seniors now and I need you to be responsible young adults. There will be ample opportunities for extra credit. Each one that is completed will

boost your grade by .5%. You can complete up to 4 a semester for a 2% bump at the end of the semester. Grades in this class will not be rounded so the EC is very important.

**Grading:** Your semester grade consists of the following weighted categories:

- 40% TEIR 3- formal assessments that include but are not limited to tests, unit quizzes, papers, and projects
- 30% TEIR 2- concept checks/quizzes, reading checks, closeout questions, in-class writes, etc.
- 20% TEIR 1- homework questions, vocabulary work, entry or exit tickets, in class work, required notes, etc.
- 10% Technology, Presence and Participation (how often and how effectively does a student add to discussion and their mental presence in class; not on their devices, not creating distractions for others, not interrupting discussions, etc. \*See section below for further details on this.)

Your semester grade is calculated (NOT ROUNDED) on the following scale:

100-90%	A
89-80%	B
79-70%	C
69-60%	D
59%...	F

**\*All testing dates are subject to change; announcements will be made at least one week in advance.**

### **Technology, Presence, and Participation Scoring**

Scoring for this category is updated throughout the course of the semester. There is a weighted category in the grade book entitled "Presence and Participation." In this category students have already been given 100/100 points. As the semester progresses deductions and additions will be made to this category based on several criteria.

- 1.) **Preparedness and engagement in class discussions and activities.** Students are expected to come into class having completed any readings or assignments and to be able to use the information from them in our class. Students who willingly engage in the conversations with applicable and useful knowledge will gain points. Even if the student is shy, they are consistently prepared with constructive responses when called upon. Students who regularly demonstrate that they have not prepared for discussions and activities will face deductions.
- 2.) **Use of class time.** As a teacher who has a full life outside of class and many obligations with my time I understand that many of my students do as well. That is why I work to provide a fair amount of class time to work on assignments and readings. I expect that students make the most of this time. I will award points to students who are using their class time well throughout the semester.
- 3.) **Working with group members.** This class is designed to have students work with one another regularly. This will take place in formal group assignments and or projects as well as informal in-class discussions and activities. Students who are excellent group members, treat each other with respect, are inclusive of one another's ideas and contributions and seek out participation from shy or quiet group members will receive additional points. Reciprocally, students who are not respectful of those in their group or who shut out ideas will be deducted.
- 4.) **Appropriate Use of Technology.** Technology is a powerful and useful tool when used appropriately. Technology also has the capacity to distract us, and those around us, from opportunities to learn and grow together. Learning to use and manage technology appropriately is a professional and life skill. In U.S. History the policy is as follows:

-Appropriate Use of Technology is a part of the weighted category in the grade book worth 10% of your overall grade entitled "Presence and Participation."

-My expectation is that devices are silenced and stored out of sight from bell to bell.

-If I need you to use your device during class time you will receive a clear invitation to do so.

-If you are managing an emergency situation, for example a sick loved one, and you may need to use your device during class, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor ahead of time. Please step out quietly to communicate and then return promptly.

-In the unfortunate event that a student does not follow the above stated guidelines a 20 point deduction will be made in the “Presence and Participation” grade.

-If five such deductions occur the student will have lost all 100 of the points for this category and will be referred to administration for progressive discipline.

Please read this syllabus carefully and be ready to take a short quiz on it tomorrow, Jan 28th. As is the case with most reading checks take handwritten notes and you may use them.