

2019-20
EC4010
Course Information Sheet

Course Title: Civics

UC/CSU requirement: Yes/Yes

Textbook and/or other learning resources: Government Alive! Power, Politics and You – TCI, Actively Learn, Newsela

Student Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this course is to develop fluency with core democratic and constitutional concepts and events to guide in decision making and meeting responsibilities as participants in our democratic republic and market economy. Specifically students will be able to:

1. identify and analyze the philosophical and historical roots, and constitutional structure, of U.S. democracy including individual rights. (12.1-12.5 & 12.9)
2. analyze the essential framework and functions of government in the United States. (12.1, 12.4-12.7, 12.9-12.10)
3. analyze forms of civil society that influence participation in U.S. political culture. (12.1-12.3, 12.5-12.6, 12.8 & 12.10)

These three areas of knowledge are divided into content strands which, collectively, make up the content assessment standard.

The course also emphasizes the Common Core skills of critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

As a result of successful participation in the course, students will improve their:

- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving** – ability to convey clear and distinct perspectives, provide an informed and logical argument, use of evidence to substantiate claims, including evidence garnered through primary and secondary source analysis
- **Communication** – participate effectively in collaborative discussions; build on others' ideas; express own ideas clearly and persuasively, work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions; write essays
- **Knowing How to Learn Skills** – acquire and apply knowledge through reading, note-taking, and studying
- **Understanding Political and Governmental Structures** – identify how the basic principles of U.S. democracy are expressed in individual and societal choices

Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

The course standards, and the weight of each in the calculation of the final semester grade, are as follows:

- Civic Participation = 10%
- Content Strands = 90%

As we progress through a unit, students will be given informal formative feedback on their knowledge, understanding and civic participation through various checks of understanding. In contrast, formal summative assessments of a student's ability to demonstrate proficiency in achieving the course standards will be used to determine final grades.

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Civic Participation: Homework, classwork, work habits, participation in class, and ability to meet deadlines, will constitute the 10% weight of this grading category. There will be approximately 3 assignments per unit in this category.

Content Strands: Scores from four unit exams, critical thinking assignments / quizzes, of varying weights, will constitute the 90% weight of this grading category. Each unit will have approximately 5 assignments.

- Foundation of US Democracy & Individual Rights = 20%
- Federalism = 15%
- Political Parties, Ideologies & the Three Branches of Government = 25%
- Civil Society = 20%
- Final project = 10%

3. Grading scales:

Skill Level Name	Letter Mark	SIS Final Grade Percent Scale
Advanced +	A+	94-100
Advanced	A	87-93.99
Advanced -	A-	80-86.99
Proficient +	B+	74-79.99
Proficient	B	67-73.99
Proficient -	B-	60-66.99
Basic +	C+	54-59.99
Basic	C	47-53.99
Basic -	C-	40-46.99
Below Basic +	D+	34-39.99
Below Basic	D	27-33.99
Below Basic -	D-	20-26.99
Far Below Basic	F	10-19.99
Not Enough Evidence	I	0.1-9.99
Missing Assignment	X	0

This scale will also be for:

- raw score grading of assignments and exams
- when raw scores are scaled into performance levels
- performance level scores are derived from rubrics

4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

Students are expected to participate in class by bringing completed work, joining in discussions and simulations, and completing in-class assignments. Students must be prepared, and collaborate in class activities. Students will have homework assignments that include reading, written applications, and studying for assessments. Some assignments and in-class activities will require homework preparation beyond nightly reading and writing expectations.

5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):

It is the student's responsibility to check Google Classroom and to speak with their teacher before they return (when appropriate) to arrange any make-up work. Students who miss a major Content Strand assessment must make it up the day they return to school.

6. Academic integrity violation practices ([MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):

Students will regularly be expected to collaborate in this course to earn full Civic Participation credit. These instances of instructor led collaboration will not be considered violations of Academic Integrity. For instances of student initiated collaboration, strict adherence to the school's Academic Integrity Policy will be expected.

From the MVHS Student Handbook:

There are three categories for violations of academic integrity based on the severity of the offense (Categories A, B, and C).

Examples of academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to, copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism (taking or passing off another's ideas as one's own, including using Internet sources without documentation), copying from another's exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests, and using unauthorized notes/materials. Check with your teachers if you are unsure of their expectations.

A student's education and integrity are extraordinarily valuable. Thus, students are expected to do their own work. If a student is concerned that they may not be able to complete their own work, they should consult their teacher for assistance. Student or parents/guardians who are unclear about what constitutes cheating should consult the instructor and the district Academic Integrity Policy posted on the instructor's website. District policy regarding cheating will be followed at all times.

7. Late work practices:

Completing work on time is highly recommended, as it allows students to reinforce content knowledge and practice skills in class, and for the teacher to provide better feedback. The result is increased learning and higher grades.

Even when students do not complete work on time, they are still expected to complete and turn in that work. Late work turned in within 24 hours of being assigned will receive full credit for Civic Participation. Any work turned in after 24 hours will receive no higher than a Basic/C. Work submitted after four calendar days will receive no credit. See Civic Participation rubric for scoring criteria.

Assignments such as Critical Thinking Reflections (CTRs) or individual responses as part of an in-class activity must be completed within two weeks of the original due date to receive credit.

8. Revision and reassessment practices:

Students are encouraged to take advantage of revision and reassessment opportunities. Unit Summative reassessments must be completed within a month of the original assessment. Revisions for critical thinking assignments must be completed within two weeks of being returned.

To revise written assignments, the assignment must have been turned in on time and then the student will follow revision criteria provided.

To reassess any unit summative assessment, first complete the Guided Reading Unit Packet provided on [Activelylearn.com](#), then reassess on or before the deadline. You may only reassess once and the second score will be the final score. Mini Summative assessments may not be reassessed.

9. Extra credit practices:

There is no extra credit in this course.

10. Additional grading practices:

Students may do work with a team in a group work assignment, but each student will only be graded for the part of the assignment in which they are able to demonstrate individual work.

Additional information:

The majority of course materials and information will be distributed through the course Google Classroom. This includes calendars with due dates. It is expected that students will access Google classroom regularly to stay up to date on the course, particularly when they are absent.

Devices can only be used in class at the teacher's discretion and their use must be in line with the [MVLA Digital Device](#) and Behavior Policies. If distraction becomes an issue, the teachers will manage the situation as they would with any other distraction and in line with the relevant policies.

Instructors' email addresses:

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_____ **Student name (printed)**

_____ **Student signature**

_____ **Parent / Guardian name (printed)**

_____ **Parent / Guardian signature**