

Civics: Fall 2008
Mrs. Crossland

Class Information

Textbooks

Remy, Richard C. *United States Government, Democracy in Action*. Glencoe McGraw Hill, 2006. We are very fortunate to have relatively textbooks in the social studies department this year. **PLEASE** treat your book with respect.

Papers

I strongly recommend that you keep all papers associated with this class. **DO NOT STORE THE PAPERS IN YOUR NEW TEXTBOOK.** Keep all papers in a folder or three-ring binder.

Calendar

You will receive a calendar at the beginning of each new unit. You are expected to pay close attention to this calendar and be responsible for the assignments. Don't expect me to remind you about the Reading Assignments and Daily Work.

Study Guides

You will also receive a Study Guide for each unit at the beginning of the unit. The Study Guide outlines objectives for each section of the chapter and identifies important vocabulary terms that you are expected to know. If you are familiar with all the information on the Study Guide you should be successful on the tests.

Website

Most of the information provided in class is also available on the website. (www.ppcusd8.org—then choose the high school and look for the teacher pages) If you lose your study guide or calendar, you can always check there for the information.

Course Outline (note: Units may be in a different order, depending on what is going on in the world)

1st or 3rd Quarter

Unit 1 – Foundations of Government

- Chapter 1 – People and Government
- Chapter 3 – The Constitution
- Chapter 4 – The Federal System

Unit 2 – Legislative Branch

- Chapter 5 – The Legislative Branch
- Chapter 6 – Development of Congressional Powers
- Chapter 7 – Congress at Work

Unit 3 – Executive Branch

- Chapter 8 – The Presidency
- Chapter 9 – Presidential Leadership
- Chapter 10 – The Federal Bureaucracy

Reaction Papers: Legislative Branch, Executive Branch

2nd or 4th Quarter

Unit 4 – Judicial Branch

- Chapter 11 – The Federal Court System
- Chapter 12 – Supreme Court Decision Making
- Chapter 13 – Constitutional Freedom
- Chapter 14 – Citizenship and Equal Justice
- Chapter 15 – Law in America

Unit 5 – Participating in Government

- Chapter 16 – Political Parties
- Chapter 17 – Elections and Voting

Unit 6 – State and Local Government

- Chapter 23 – Structure and Function of State Government
- Chapter 24 – Structure and Function of Local Government

Reaction Papers: - Judicial Branch, State Government
Project – The Fugitive

In addition to the regular course material, you will also have approximately three days each quarter to work on Rite of Passage.

Grading

Tests

- Two or three major tests per quarter
- Between 100 and 150 points each

Reaction Papers

- Two Reaction Papers per quarter
- 100 points each

Projects

- Usually one project per quarter
- 100 – 150 points

Graded homework assignments

- Several per unit
- Usually between 10 and 30 points

Quizzes

- Approximately Daily quizzes over the reading assignment
- 10 points each

Daily Work

- 10 points each
- A quiz score of 8, 9, or 10 means Daily Work is **OPTIONAL**
- A quiz score of 7 or below means Daily Work is **MANDATORY**

Note: You must pass your Constitution Tests, as well as the entire class in order to graduate from Pleasant Plains. Students will be allowed to do test corrections on both the Federal Constitution Test and the Illinois Constitution Test. If test corrections still do not result in a passing grade, students will be required to do a complete retake, using a different version of the test. Much of the material will be covered in regular tests throughout the semester, so you should be familiar with all the material by the end of the course.

Semester Exam

First semester exam is a comprehensive test over both Constitutions. Most of the material will have already been covered on previous tests. Students must pass this test in order to pass the class. Students have an opportunity to do corrections but these must be done before grades are submitted (on the third day of the next semester)

Semester Exam (Second Semester)

Students who take Civics during the second semester will be taking the Constitution Test during the 4th quarter instead of as the semester exam. Any student who receives an A both quarters is exempt from the semester exam. The second semester exam will be an in-class reaction paper, written about one of the several news articles that I bring to class that day.