



Civics

Mr. Thomas Coats

Room 317

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“Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

– John F. Kennedy

Course Overview

Civics/American Government is a **required** course for graduation. The focus of this course is to prepare students to participate in exercising their political responsibilities as thoughtful and informed citizens. Civics provides a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities for being an American citizen and a framework for competent and responsible participation. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of government and political systems, and the importance of the rule of law; the United States Constitution; Federal, State and local government structure; and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Students will actively investigate local, state and national issues, read and participate in discussions, and develop informed arguments using a variety of writing forms.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- TCI- Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You
- Chromebooks
- Spiral bound notebook
- Pencils and Pens (Black or Blue Ink)

Online Resources

- [iCivics](#)
- [The Library of Congress](#)
- [Civics Renewal Network](#)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Course Requirements:

PSUSD and California policy dictate that a student must pass each semester with a minimum of 60% (D-) in order to receive credit for that semester. All students must successfully pass all eight semesters of English.

Class Expectations:

*Arrive to class on time.

*Have all necessary materials.

*Turn in assignments on time.

*Avoid behavior that impairs your own or others' academic achievement.

*Practice kindness, patience, honesty, and good manners towards fellow students and school staff.

Tardy Policy:

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be in their seat by the time class begins. Students who are tardy will be marked as such and will serve detention.

Tardiness affects the entire class, not just the person who is tardy; therefore, will not be tolerated.

Discipline Policy:

Practice the class expectations as listed above. Should action be necessary due to a student breaching the expectations, the following will occur:

Warning by the teacher.

30 minute after school/lunch detention and parent communication.

60 minute after school detention and parent communication.

Discipline Referral.

Please recognize that some offenses may warrant an immediate referral. Demonstrate respect for your classmates, your school, your teacher and yourself.

Lanyards & IDs:

Students are expected to have their lanyard and ID on everyday. Students who do not have their lanyard or ID will be sent to the office and be issued a Loaner ID shirt to wear for the remainder of the day.

Phones, IPODS, MP3 Players:

The use of phones and music players will not be allowed during class EXCEPT when the teacher clearly gives permission. There will be times when the teacher will allow certain apps on smartphones to be used; however, having your phone out, music playing (with or without ear phones), texting, etc will not be tolerated. Phone will be confiscated, and an office consequence slip will be turned in. Please make good choices!

While in class, students should ONLY use their electronic devices for the purposes of the classwork and should ONLY use their devices when instructed to by the teacher.

Bathroom Passes:

Students are expected to use the restroom before or after class.

Students may not use the bathroom passes within the first or last 10 minutes of class. Only one student may use a bathroom pass at a time. Bathroom passes allow students 4 minutes from the time they exit the class to the time they re-enter the class. Students

must exercise respectful, non-disruptive behavior while using the passes. Bathroom passes must be used within the set rules or they will not be considered valid.

Profanity:

No profanity or otherwise offensive language will be used in class. What is considered “profane” or “offensive” will be determined by the teacher, NOT the individual student, and will be reviewed in the first week of school.

If inappropriate language is used, the student will be escorted from the room by security and will have to spend the period in ISS. Repeat offenders will incur stronger punishments, including calls home to the parents/ guardians.

Contraband:

Please review the list of items which are not allowed on campus. Students found in possession of those items will be punished in accordance with the student handbook. The school has the right to conduct random searches anywhere on campus, which may include the use of metal detectors and scent dogs.

Social Studies Department Policies and Protocols

The following grading and conduct policies have been adopted by the RMHS Social Studies Department and the administration. All members of the department have helped to develop the policies and agree to enforce them.

Grading Scale-as adopted by the PSUSD.

A+	97 and above
A	94-96
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	59 and below

Final grades are based on overall percentages accumulated throughout the semester. The final grade is not the average of the two quarter grades.

Credit: Per district policy, students who earn a D- or better will receive five credits per semester. Those who earn an F will receive no credits.

Late Work: All assignments are due on the day specified by the teacher. Students must contact the teacher to turn in late work during zero or 7th period based on teacher discretion.

-Students who miss class for scheduled school activities must meet the same deadlines as other students.

Make-Up Work: Make-up work from an absence receives full credit if made up within two school days after the student returns to class.

-Students with an absence longer than five days are allowed on school day per absence to make up work for full credit.

-Students are responsible for meeting with the teacher for work missed and the set times given by the teacher.

Grading: Teachers will update their electronic grade book every week, but may update it more frequently at their discretion.

-Students are responsible for keeping track of their grades.

Grading Scale: Each teacher will use their discretion to determine the breakdown within each grading category within their classroom.

Academic Honesty: All students must display academic integrity and do their own work, cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form.

-Students who are caught cheating or enabling someone else to cheat will not be allowed to make-up the assignment and will receive a "0."

-Students caught cheating or contributing to cheating will be subject to the RMHS discipline policies as spelled out in the student handbook.

Extra Credit: Students are given ample opportunities to achieve success through the completion of homework, classwork, projects, tests, quizzes, participation and other activities.

-Any extra credit is at the sole discretion of the teacher who will determine what type of assignment is appropriate.

Total Point Grading:

This course is graded using total points. Each assignment has a point value that is a predetermined part of a whole point value. The weight of the assignment on the final grade is therefore tied to the number of points available in the assignment.

Category	Examples	Possible Points (Examples)
Minor Grades	Homework assignments In-class assignments Rough Drafts Quizzes Graded Discussions Class Participation	10 points
Major Grades	Notebook Checks Major Tests (texts, chapters, units) Major Projects Final Presentations	50-150 points
Final Exams	Semester 1 and Semester 2 Final Exams	75-100 points

*** Tests and quizzes must be made up either at lunch or afterschool BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Tests and quizzes must be made up within three days of your return to class.**

***Students should talk about make-up work with the teacher during his/her office hours- NOT during class.**

Grades will not be discussed during or after class time. If you have questions regarding your grade schedule a time with me during office hours or contact me by email at tcoats@psusd.us.

Parent/ Guardian Signature Sheet

Due on or before Friday, 8/17/2018

Statement: I have read, understood, and agree to the class syllabus. I will have all required materials in class by Monday, August 20.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/ Guardian Name: _____

Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____

Relationship to the Student: _____

Notes for the Teacher

Use this space to list any allergies, medical conditions, or other important information, or to ask questions.

Students: Tear this page off and turn it in. Keep the actual syllabus for your reference.

DO NOT TURN IN THE SYLLABUS.