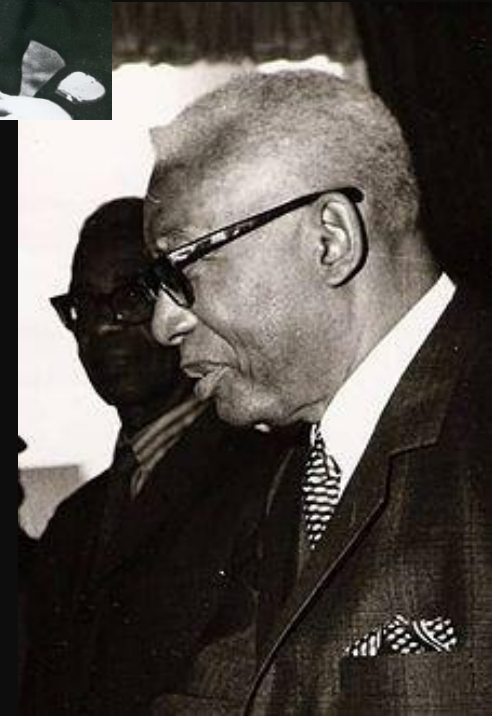


# *Civics*

*The Study of  
Government, Rule of Law  
& Social Values*

People that are uninformed and do not  
involve themselves in politics will be governed  
by those that do.

Bennito Mussolini



Doc Duvalier

Civics Syllabus Jose Marti Academy

Mr. Reyes - Contact [tonyreyes@dadeschools.net](mailto:tonyreyes@dadeschools.net)

Dear Students and Parents,

It is a pleasure to be your instructor for this important examination of government and how it has been for democracies to survive despite challenges.

**Civics examines the purposes, principles, and practices of American government as established by the Constitution.** Students are expected to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and how to exercise these rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government. Students will learn the structure and processes of the government of the state of Florida and various local governments as well as understanding other forms of government around the world.



Students will review the concept of ethics within society and how they relate to government. They will study governmental philosophies from the Greeks and the Enlightenment thinkers of the 16th and 17th centuries and how these ideas influenced the Founding Fathers. **Students will consider what values are important to them and how should their representatives reflect these values within society.**



**Primary source documents are a key feature of United States Government and Civics standards. As this is an advanced course many readings will be above 7th grade level but limited in size and scope. It is expected for students to use [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) or other sources to enhance their understanding.**

Skills Assessment In this course, we will be covering topics pertaining to US history its government and how democracy works. You will be tested over each of these topics throughout the course. Testing, or formal summative assessments, may include unit tests, vocabulary quizzes, or very short writing assignments. Informal assessments such as being prepared for class lectures and discussions through class participation are also important. Be prepared before each lecture.



Approximately 250,000 7th grade students in FL will compete for jobs, college placements and scholarships 5 years from now.



Do not fall for The **Akrasia Effect** of Making Plans but not Following Through

## **1.WHAT IS CIVICS?**

- **Purpose of Government and rule of law**
- **U.S. Citizenship**
- **Civic Roles, Rights and Responsibilities and Obligations**

## **2.FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNMENT**

- **Enlightenment ideas of John Locke and Montesquieu**
- **Influence from England's early government (Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, Thomas Paine's Common Sense)**
- **Declaration of Independence**
  - **Colonial Complaints**
  - **Specific Grievances vs. Natural Rights**

## **3.CREATING THE US CONSTITUTION**

- **Articles of Confederation (debt, Shay's Rebellion, Weaknesses)**
- **Constitutional Convention**
  - **Plans and Compromises**
  - **Federalists vs Anti-Federalists**

## **4.POLITICAL PARTICIPATION:**

- **Current Political Party ideals (Communist, Democratic, Libertarian, Republican, and Socialist)**
- **Qualification, experience, issue-based platforms of candidates for political office**
- **Election/Voting process (mock election)**

## **5.MONITORING GOVERNMENT:**

- **Media Influence**
- **Interest Group Influence (Political Action Committees, Special interest groups and lobbying)**
- **Individual Influence (watchdog)**
- **Media/ Political Communication (Bias, symbolism and propaganda )**

## **6.ORGANIZATION OF US CONSTITUTION**

- **Basic Structure (Preamble, Articles, Amendments)**
- **Checks and Balances**
- **Separation of Powers**

## **7.BRANCHES OF GOVT. (Articles 1-3)**

- **Structure (Court levels, lawmakers, Presidential Cabinet, etc.)**
- **Processes (Lawmaking process, trial process and juries)**
- **Function (legislative, executive, and judicial)**
- **Powers (concurrent, enumerated, reserved, delegated)**

## **8.CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

- **Amendment process**
- **Bill of rights**
- **Voting Amendments**
- **Social, political, and economical evaluation of rights**
- **How constitution limits/protects rights**

## **9. IMPACTS OF LAW**

3<sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks

- Sources of law
- Landmark cases
- Rule of Law = US Constitution

## **10. FEDERALISM**

- Comparing constitutions (State vs. Federal)
  - Basic Structure comparison (preamble, articles, and amendments)
  - Amendment Process of state government
- Obligations and Services
- Supremacy Clause

## **11. PUBLIC POLICY**

- Addressing community issues
- Research public policy
- Develop a resolution plan
- Service Learning/ Volunteerism

## **12. FORMS VS SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT**

- Forms of government (direct vs representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy)
- Systems of government (parliamentary, federal, confederal and unitary systems)



### **13.GLOBALIZATION**

- **US Domestic vs foreign policy**
- **Global Interdependence ? Major Defense and Economic Treaties**
  - **International Organizations**
  - **International Conflicts**

**CIVICS EOC Review (1 week each)**

**14. Origins and Purposes of Law and Government**

**15. Organization and Function of Government**

**16. Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities of Citizens**

**17. Government Policies and Political Processes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Week of May – End of Course Exam**

**Personal Budget Planning – OR - Students Pick a Subject to Explore**

Note - All major tests and exams will have a study guide on OneNote.

**End of Year Exam (EOC) will be given to all 7th graders in early May. This exam will count for approximately 33% of your grade for the year.**

Getting a top score of 5 has the consequence of raising GPA one grade but getting a score of 1 or 2 will lower GPA up to 1 letter grade. Any student with a D average for the year will fail the course. As you can see from the benchmarks listed there is an enormous amount of information and concepts students must master. Therefore, every assignment, every benchmark must be taken seriously from the beginning. There is far too much to cram it in during the last week or two.

# Etiquette – On and Off Line

Etiquette includes having a strong moral code of conduct. The basics include allowing space for others opinions, following the Golden Rule (treat others as you wish to be treated) ***“People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.”- Maya Angelou.***

## Tips for

- **Be on time** to class.
- Ensure that you have completed all assignments. ...
- Be **respectful** to all participants at all times.
- Avoid multi-tasking, pay attention. ...
- Prepare materials in advance if you are presenting
- Class participation will be graded, ask relevant questions, provide insight on the subject.



## SUBJECT TITLE - CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

### SUBTITLE - GUATEMALA

Key Ideas	Notes
4 neighboring countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Central America</li><li>- borders Mexico, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador</li></ul>
has 3 regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Regions formed by mountain ranges</li><li>- Divided east to west</li><li>- Pacific Coast, Petén, Highlands</li></ul>
mountains & volcanos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2 primary mountain ranges</li><li>- 37 volcanos (4 active)</li><li>- volcanoes cause earthquakes</li></ul>

Guatemala shares borders with 4 other countries. Mountain ranges divide Guatemala into 3 geographical regions.

STUDENTS FINAL THOUGHTS OR KEY POINTS

**CORNELL 2/col NOTES** - Subject / Assignment Title and page # on the top right of the page must appear for every lecture, specified reading assignment and video. Only put page # on subject or assignment title.

Notes must be typed or downloaded onto students NOTES Folder in 365 OneNote. Notes will be selectively graded. Students can upload hand written notes.

**TABLE OF CONTENT** - The first 2 pages on each folder will be a table of content (just like your text book). The title of each lecture/reading notes test, assignment will appear on the student folder table of content with the page # directly to the left.

In this way the students will be able to search their notes to prepare for exams and open note quizzes. Look for the title on the table of content, note the page #, go to the page then look to the column on the left for Concepts/Key ideas to go to the exact concept you need to study.

*Notes that are not properly organized are close to useless.*



# Primary & Secondary Sources

Look up Terms  
When necessary

## THE POWER OF Annotating

Annotating is when readers make notes and flag or highlight important details while they are reading.



Focus on what they are reading.



Understand the details of a text.



Keep track of thoughts and feelings.



Keep track of important details.



Prepare for discussion.



Prepare to write about it.

tone: sarcastic,  
to the point,

### Boo Hoo in the Boardroom

By Timothy Egan

February 4, 2009, 10:00 pm

Richie Sexson was a first baseman for the Seattle Mariners, earning \$50 million over four years. In 2007, he hit barely .200 for the season and struck out more times than all but a handful of players. It's possible that never in the history of the game had so much been paid for so little production.

At first, fans didn't seem to care what Richie was getting, so long as he swatted enough homers among his strikeouts. But during his freefall, that \$8 hot dog and \$10 beer did not go down so easily. He was booed out of the game in ever-polite Seattle. As it turns out, there's a performance clause in class resentment.

And when home-office hobbyists could flip a tract house every six months and walk away with a sweat-free windfall, no one would have minded if, say, Countrywide Financial was paying exotic dancers to sort the M&Ms on board the corporate jet of its chief executive officer, Angelo Mozilo. But after Countrywide collapsed, and more than 12,000 people lost their jobs and many more lost their life savings, Mozilo was a pariah. How could he stand to make \$110 million in total severance (later reduced) after driving the nation's largest home lender into the ground?

Class resentment, like race, is always there in American life, though oft-smothered by the surface calm of good times. It was considered unfashionable, or worse, to point out that by 2006 total compensation for C.E.O.s of the largest companies was 364 times that of the pay of the average worker – a nearly tenfold increase in the gap over 30 years.

Oh shush, the apologists for inequality always said – America is a meritocracy, we pay for the best, and the rewards are market-driven.

As it turns out, there's a performance clause in class resentment. To fail and still walk away with a killing is a break in the social contract simply because it doesn't work that way in real life for most people.

All of which is to say that President Obama should have little trouble prevailing with his announcement Wednesday that the buffet table at the loser's banquet has been closed. He set a salary cap of \$500,000 for executives at companies that receive large amounts of bailout money.

The restrictions do not go as far as those proposed by Missouri Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill, but it's a start, and the national mood is with him. Polls show bipartisan resentment at the lords of finance who expect continued gilded age rewards after ruining the economy of the Western world.

Irony  
stereotype

1090s,  
ethos  
statistics and  
facts support  
Egan's argument

comical,  
informal

of money,  
while the  
other workers  
are working  
just as  
hard but  
aren't getting  
paid nearly  
as much \$.

# Grading

Grading scale will be the usual 100 – 90% A 89 – 80% B 79- 70% C 69 -60% D 59% > F

- Turn in assignments on time.
  - Homework is assigned once per week and is coordinated to complement class work.
- Place assignments in proper folder
- All major exams will have study guides

- Readings and analysis of primary and secondary sources require annotation and highlighting of key ideas.
- Students must synthesize key concepts into short answers that reflect the authors intent.
- Student participation during class discussions will earn a grade plus earn extra credit points on the next test or exam.