 Civics 2017/2018 

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**Course Introduction**

Political Science is an introduction to the functions of government at the federal and state level. This course covers the origins of our government, the creation of the American Constitution, the three branches of the United States’ government, as well as Illinois’ government and Constitution. Students will also become familiar with the rights and responsibilities they have as members of American society, with the intention of making them active and informed citizens for the future.

**\*\*Required Materials\*\***

* ***1”-1.5” 3-ring binder for taking notes and organizing course materials*** (this needs to be only for this class)
* Tab dividers for 3-ring binder
* Notebook or loose leaf paper to take notes and complete writings (replenished as necessary)
* Writing utensils – Blue/Black pens, No. 2 pencils, a red pen for grading quizzes
* Access to the internet for supplementary readings, class website, research, etc. (Accommodations can be made)
* Access to a computer and printer for typing and printing assignments. (Accommodations can be made)

**Required Text**

* McClenaghan, William A., and Frank Abbott Magruder. *Magruder's American Government*. Mass.: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2007.
* Additional supplementary readings will be assigned by the instructor as necessary.

**Class Announcements and Reminders**

Homework and general classroom/school announcements will be posted on my professional Twitter account for students to follow. They can follow @MisterWilson16.

I will also use  remind (formerly Remind101) for announcements.  Remind is a service which allows me to setup a class account and then for the members of the class to sign up to receive text messages or emails from me (you will not know my number and I will not know your number through this service; also I can only send out messages, not receive responses). If you would like to receive reminders for this class, please follow these directions:

1. Sign up at this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/wilsonciv>, OR
2. Text @wilsonciv this number: 81010.

If neither of the above works for you, please talk to Mr. Wilson and he’ll help you set up reminders for this class.

**Course Expectations and Rules**

In order for the classroom to function in a safe and respectable manner for everyone:

**Students will agree to:**

* Respect all other classmates (listen to and respect others’ opinions)
* Respect the instructor & course material
* Show up on time, focused, with the required materials and ready to participate in class
* Obey all school rules and policies laid out in the OHS Student Handbook
* Help create a safe and fun learning environment!

**Mr. Wilson will agree to:**

* Respect everyone as both a student and a person
* Give support and help to all students that need and request it
* Return all assignments in a timely manner
* Grade all assignments fairly and in an unbiased manner

**Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones are a useful tool in today’s society, however, they are not always helpful in a classroom environment where student participation and attention is required to adequately learn and retain all information that is presented. Because of this, cell phones are to be out of sight unless told otherwise in order to avoid becoming a distraction. If cellphones begin to become a problem, the student and I will have a conversation together to address the issue.

**Grading Policies**

*Grades in this course will be based off of the following assignments:*

**GRADES**

1. **10%= Formative Assessments**
2. **40%= Projects/Key Assessments**
3. **40%= Tests/Quizzes**
4. **10%= Final Exam**

**100 – 90 = A 89 – 80 = B 79 – 79 = C 69 – 60 = D 59 or below = F**

**Late Work Policy:** All assignments are due on the date specified by the instructor. However, I understand that things do happen and as such, I will accept late work up to a certain point for each unit for full credit, after that I won’t accept it at all. *All late work for each unit MUST be turned in on a date specified by the teacher for that unit (normally the day after a Unit Test).* **No late work for the specified unit will be accepted after such a date is posted by the teacher.**

**Make-up Work/Absent Policy:** If you know that you are going to miss class on a certain day, it is your responsibility to meet with me or email me to discuss what assignments you will miss and when they are to be turned in upon your return. *If you are absent*, then you will get the amount of days you were absent to turn in any missing assignments without penalty. Please, note that this policy can be modified as needed based on discussions between Mr. Wilson and the student affected.

**Missed Tests/Exams:** Students should be prepared to take a missed test/exam on the day they return to school or on an arranged day set up with the teacher.

**Extra Credit Policy:** There will be no individual opportunities for extra credit. However, I may offer opportunities to the whole class at my own discretion. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to: outside class meetings, attendance at a class related activity, CNN Student News Quizzes, Current Event articles, etc.

**Headphones/Ear Buds/Hoodies/Hats:** Over-the-ear headphones are prohibited. They should not be brought into the classroom. Ear buds or other small/low profile headphones can be kept in a pocket or purse as long as they are not used during the class period, unless given teacher permission. The School Dress Code according to the student handbook will be followed at all times regarding hoodies and other hats/caps.

**Types of Assignments**

During this course, there will be many assignments given to you throughout the semester. The following are types of assignments that can/will be assigned throughout this course.

**Binders:** Each student will be required to maintain a binder with tabs for each Unit (5 total). You will be required to keep every assignment in this binder and there will be regular, i.e. graded, binder checks to make sure that you are maintaining your binder in a meaningful fashion. **Organization is a life skill** and this is why we’re doing this.

**Homework:** Homework may be given on a regular basis and is expected to be completed properly by every student. Homework is intended to help you understand the concepts that we discuss in class and also to help you with concepts that we may only briefly touch upon in class, so completing it is vital to ensure your success in class.

**Key Assessments:** There will be assigned essays, papers and/or projects based on the curriculum demands of the course. All of these will be assigned well in advance in order to give the student enough time to complete it***.***

***\*\*Each of these assessments MUST be completed in order to pass this class!!\*\****

**Exams:** There will be exams given throughout the course (normally after every unit).

**Course Schedule**

**\*\**Please note that this schedule is subject to change at my discretion*\*\***

**\*Required Key Assessments are in BOLD.\***

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| **Unit** | **Activities/Assignments** (Not all are listed) | **Possible Assigned Readings** |
| Unit 1: Political Parties and Current Issues | - Current Event Article Discussion- **Political Spectrum Essay**- Start **Amendment Handout**- Quizzes – Political Spectrum, Voting Behavior/Role of Media | - Chapters 5.1, 6.1-6.4, 8.3- Other Supp. readings as assigned |
| Unit 2: Principles and Origins of the Constitution | - **Personal Declaration of Independence**- Five Basic Principles Chart- Six Principles Chart- Federalism Chart- **Class Constitution Outline**- Unit 2 Exam | - Chapters 1-4- Other Supp. readings as assigned |
| Unit 3: Legislative Branch | - Congressional Simulation- Continue **Amendment Handout****- Congressional Bill and Brief****-** Unit 3 Exam | - Chapters 10-12- Supplemental readings as assigned |
| Unit 4: The Executive Branch | - Continue **Amendment Handout**- Caucus/Primary Simulation**- Candidate Project**- Unit 4 Exam | - Chapters 7-9 and 13-15- Other Supp. readings as assigned |
| Unit 5: The Judicial BranchUnit 6: Illinois Government | - Supreme Court Case Studies- **Amendment Handout w/Tweet** | - Chapters 18-20- Other Supp. readings as assigned |
| - **Letter to Local/Federal Official**- Unit 5 and 6 Exam- Built to Last Assignment- **Citizenship Post-Test** | - Illinois Constitution |

**Confirmation:** Please sign this part of the page and return it to Mr. Wilson, for a grade, before the end of the first week of class.

My child and I have read the Course Plan and Outline. We understand the framework of the course, the assignments, topics to be studied, grading policy, the cell phone policy, and the academic and behavior expectations of this course. We also know that if we need to contact Mr. Wilson at any time during the school year, we can reach him via his phone or his email. Finally, we understand that this is a tentative course outline and that Mr. Wilson is able to change it during the semester to best meet the learning needs of the class.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents’/Guardians’ phone number(s), e-mail, and preferred times to receive calls (if not updated in HomeAccess):

Name(s)- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell Number- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Time-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Number- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Time- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail(s)- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_