Ms. Elizabeth Gifford

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**Civics & PAP Civics Syllabus**

* **Texts:** *Civics Today:  Citizenship, Economics, & You*

**Course Description**: ​Civics is defined as "the study of the rights and duties of citizenship".  As American citizens, we have the opportunity to participate in a democratic government.  This semester, we will learn what it means to be a citizen of the United States and how we can play a role in our government.  By the end of the semester, my goal is that we all understand the importance of our government and the freedoms that it entails.  I hope that every student will take an interest in our government and strive to become active citizens in their community.

Grading Scale:

* 90% - 100% = A
* 89% – 80% = B
* 79% – 70% = C
* 69% – 60% = D
* 59% & below = F

**Required Supplies:**

* Binder (preferably 2 in)
* 1 package of divider tabs for binder
* Loose leaf paper (no spiral notebooks)
* Black/blue pens
* Highlighters
* Post it tabs

**Topics of Study:**

* The Foundation of American Citizenship
* The National Government
* Political Parties & Interest Groups
* State & Local Governments
* The American Legal System
* Economics

**Course Methods of Assessment:**

Students are primarily assessed through chapter exams and reading quizzes. Chapter exams consist of multiple choice, identify, open response questions and essay. Daily quizzes will relate to assigned text and/or assigned primary source documents. Students are also required to complete DBQs, compare and contrast, argumentative, persuasive, and change over time essays. Students will also take a mid-term and final exam. All assignments/exams will be assessed promptly and placed on database for student/parent grade evaluation. Students will receive these assignments and due dates with proficient time to complete and return when due. I will use remind, google classroom, and our database to ensure students and parents are aware of all assignments/exams. See my late assignment policy below for additional information. Students will also be expected to:

* Read articles and documents in order to analyze and better understand United States history.
* Construct and analyze maps in order to develop and strengthen geography skills.
* Perform research skills needed for college classes.
* Write essays in order to develop proficiency and fluency as a skill.
* Present information to classmates to demonstrate knowledge of topics covered.

**Teaching Strategies:**

Teaching strategies for this course include lecture through power point presentations, student based presentations, document/photo/cartoon analysis, and student led discussion. There is also an emphasis on independent reading and analysis of text and primary source materials, both written and visual. Students are provided a study guide prior to each chapter.

**Class Policies & Procedures:**

* Come into class prepared. This requires you have all your supplies, book, and any homework assigned that is due.
* Be in your seat with your binder and book on desk before the tardy bell rings.
* Do not ask to leave the room (bathroom, nurse, locker, et…) once you enter the classroom unless it is an emergency and you have teacher approval.
* Please be respectful of your classmates and their educational journey. This requires respect across the board while in the classroom. Disrespectful behavior towards a student or teacher is not tolerated.
* I expect each and every student to come to class ready to open their minds and give 100% effort daily. As I was taught, “If you are going to do something, do it right!”
* Please do not hi-light or write in the textbooks.
* No sleeping or personal grooming in class. Please handle this before or after class.
* All school rules in the student handbook will be applied in our classroom.

**Other Information:**

* You must read and understand the assigned material in order to succeed in this class.
* Complete sentences and paragraphs are expected on written responses.
* Productive, Mature class discussion is required.
* Be prepared for reading quizzes!

Don’t forget to sign up for Remind!!

Instructions are provided below…

**PAP Civics Civics**



