

# The American Citizen

## Course Overview and Syllabus

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Web site: <http://www.twyman-whitney.com/americancitizen/>

The American Citizen is a two-semester course for juniors and seniors. Students must pass this class to graduate from any of the high schools within the North Kansas City School District, including NKCHS. With sufficient effort, a decent work ethic, and regular attendance in class, students may earn one full unit of credit in social studies. Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn. The most important element in this is an attitude that there are things of value to learn in this course, and a healthy respect for other students' right to an education. Cooperation with others is necessary for success in this course -- with other students, your instructor, and other staff members at NKCHS.

A requirement of this class is to make regular use of the course web site. Assignments and projects, practice tests, Powerpoint slideshows with class notes, practice tests and quizzes, vocabulary lists and study guides, this syllabus, and other useful links are all available at the Web site for this course at <http://www.twyman-whitney.com/americancitizen/>.

## Units Of Instruction In This Course

First Semester:

- a review of the basic principles of government
- public opinion, interest groups, political parties and the process of electing public officials in our democracy

Second Semester:

- civil rights, civil liberties, and how the national and state constitutions help to guarantee the rights of the majority and protect those who hold minority views
- the legislative process, lawmaking powers and how laws are made in a democratic society
- leadership in a democracy through the executive branch of government and the power of the bureaucracy to carry out policies
- the courts system and legal processes at the national, state and local levels
- the theory and practice of economic systems in our world today

Additional class time will be used to explore

- local, state and national geography
- the people and events and issues that are of contemporary importance
- the use of computer-related technology to complete research projects and oral presentations

## Students' Grades

If you want to succeed in this course, be ready to . . .

- learn new skills and knowledge that will help you be a better student and more competent individual
- complete assigned readings from the text, online, or hand-outs prepared by your instructor
- complete written assignments and other projects when they are due
- bring paper, pens, pencils every day, and your text when asked by your instructor
- actively participate in class activities and discussions in a mature fashion
- read, listen to and/or watch the news in a variety of formats (including the Web)

**Final (semester) grades will be based on** .the percentage of total possible points a student has earned by the end of the semester for assignments, projects, quizzes, tests, and participation in in-class activities as follows:

A = 90% to 100%, B = 80% to 89%, C = 70% to 79%, D = 60% to 69%, F = 59% or less

## Make An Appointment

Your instructor is generally available during Advisory block and in his classroom at least one day per week after school by appointment. See your instructor to discuss any issues you are having with the course.

## Weekly Schedule: Spring Semester, 2010

Week	Coverage of Content and Activities
January 5 – January 22	<p>Second semester classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 12, Congress: Its Powers, Structure and Members, pp. 330 – 349 in <i>Government in America</i></li> <li>• Complete Chapter 12 Study Guide</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 12 Vocabulary Quiz</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 12 Test</li> </ul>
January 25 – February 12  6-week grade period ends on Friday, February 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 13, The Lawmaking Process, pp. 350 – 375 in <i>Government in America</i></li> <li>• Complete Chapter 13 Study Guide</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 13 Vocabulary Quiz</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 13 Test</li> </ul>
February 15 – March 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 14, The Office of President, pp. 378 – 395 in <i>Government in America</i></li> <li>• Complete Chapter 14 Study Guide</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 14 Vocabulary Quiz</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 14 Test</li> </ul>
March 8 – 12 <i>March 15 – 19 Spring Break</i> March 22 – April 2  12-week grade period ends on Friday, April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 15, The Powers of the President, pp. 396 - 419 in <i>Government in America</i></li> <li>• Complete Chapter 15 Study Guide</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 15 Vocabulary Quiz</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 15 Test</li> </ul>
April 5 – 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 17, The Supreme Court and the Federal Courts System, pp. 462 - 487 in <i>Government in America</i></li> <li>• Complete Chapter 17 Study Guide</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 17 Vocabulary Quiz</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 17 Test</li> </ul>
May 3 – 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 18, Law and the Legal Process, pp. 488 - 509 in <i>Government in America</i></li> <li>• Complete Chapter 18 Study Guide</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 18 Vocabulary Quiz</li> <li>• Study for and take Chapter 18 Test</li> </ul>
May 19 – NKCHS Graduation May 25 – Last day of school	FINAL EXAM: TBA