

The American Citizen – Course Overview and Syllabus, Spring, 2011



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 others' opportunity to learn while they're in this class. Being prepared to learn means bringing appropriate course-related materials when they are needed and the completion of assignments on the date they are due.

Course Web Site

This syllabus, assignments, practice quizzes and tests, Powerpoint slideshows with lecture notes, vocabulary flashcards, online activities and links to information can be found at <http://www.twyman-whitney.com>.

Contacting Your Instructor

Ms. Twyman's email address is dtwyman@nkcsd.k12.mo.us; Mr. Whitney's is cwhitney@nkcsd.k12.mo.us.

Course Description

The American Citizen is a two-semester course for juniors and seniors. With sufficient effort, a decent work ethic and regular attendance in class students may earn one full unit of credit in social studies. Students must pass this class to graduate from any of the high schools within the North Kansas City School District, including NKCHS. There are no official prerequisites for the course. However, students will find it very helpful (and they will find the course to be a lot more rewarding) if they are generally knowledgeable about the following:

- United States history
- the basic concepts and principles of government and democracy
- the social, political, religious and governmental culture of the United States as a whole
- what is happening "in the news" -- in our community, state, nation and the world

Units of Instruction

Spring Semester

- 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
- 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 courts system and legal processes at the national, state and local levels
- the U.S. and Missouri constitutions, in preparation for the state-required Constitution Test

Students' Grades

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

- bring paper, pens, pencils every day, and your text when asked by your instructor
- complete assigned readings in the text, online, or hand-outs prepared by your instructor
- actively participate in class activities and discussions in a mature fashion
- read, listen to and/or watch the national and international news in a variety of formats

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, and tests.

Extra Credit

Generally, extra credit for students enrolled in The American Citizen course will be earned through their knowledge of current events. Current events quizzes may be given on an irregular basis throughout the semester.



Weekly Schedule: Spring Semester, 2011



2nd Semester Deadlines

Add Class Deadline-Friday, January 14

Drop without "F" Deadline-Friday, February 25-Drops only per policy/procedure

Week	Coverage of Content and Activities
January 4 – 21	Second semester classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 12, Congress: Its Powers, Structure and Members • Complete Chapter 12 Study Guide • Study for and take Chapter 12 Vocabulary Quiz • Study for and take Chapter 12 Test, turn in Study Guide for credit
January 24 – February 11 6-week grade period ends on Friday, February 11, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 13, The Lawmaking Process • Complete Chapter 13 Study Guide • Study for and take Chapter 13 Vocabulary Quiz • Study for and take Chapter 13 Test, turn in Study Guide for credit
February 14 – March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 14, The Office of President • Complete Chapter 14 Study Guide • Study for and take Chapter 14 Vocabulary Quiz • Study for and take Chapter 14 Test, turn in Study Guide for credit
March 7 – April 1 March 14 – 18 Spring Break 12-week grade period ends on Friday, April 1, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 15, The Powers of the President • Complete Chapter 15 Study Guide • Study for and take Chapter 15 Vocabulary Quiz • Study for and take Chapter 15 Test, turn in Study Guide for credit
April 4 – April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/discussion/activities covering Chapter 17, The Supreme Court and the Federal Courts System • Complete Chapter 17 Study Guide • Study for and take Chapter 17 Vocabulary Quiz • Study for and take Chapter 17 Test, turn in Study Guide for credit
May 2 – May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for U.S. and Missouri Constitution Test • U.S. and Missouri Constitution Test
May 16 – 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINAL EXAMS WEEK • Friday, May 20 – Half Day, Early Release • NKCHS Graduation – Friday, May 20