

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics/Geography Syllabus Calera Middle School 2016-2017

**Instructor:** Coach Marsh

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**Text:** Geography - *World Geography*  
Civics - *Civics in Practice*

## **Standards:**

This course is standards based. The following standards were used to prepare this course.

- The Shelby County Curriculum Map for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics & Geography
- The Alabama Course of Study
- The SAT-10 Compendium
- The National Council for the Social Studies Ten Thematic Strands

## **Course description:**

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics/Geography. The curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies is divided into two semester courses; one semester of Geography and one of Civics (also called Citizenship). Civics will focus on the foundation and structure of the American government and World Geography will focus on physical as well as human geography.

## **Expectations:**

Come to class prepared. Assignments should be turned in on time; late assignments will receive partial credit (see EAET/Make-up Rules). Respect yourself and others at all times. Discipline will be handled in accordance with the Shelby County Code of Conduct.

## **What to bring to class:**

Bring the following items to class **every day**:

- Textbook
- Pencil
- Paper
- A positive attitude!

## **Daily Work:**

Reading is an essential component of any social studies course. Quizzes will assess vocabulary and reading comprehension. Review questions (SAQs) will reinforce learned concepts. Class activities aid lesson comprehension. Homework will reinforce daily objectives.

## **Assessments:**

Assessments are conducted through a variety of methods. Major tests assess mastery of unit/chapter objectives. Vocabulary quizzes assess

mastery of content terminology. Benchmarks will evaluate overall mastery of objectives for the grading period.

### **Grading system:**

#### **Category Grading:**

We use a universal grading system divided into 3 weighted categories. The Gold category (50%) includes major tests, projects and 9 weeks assessment/benchmark. The Silver category (35%) includes vocabulary quizzes and major classwork assignments (essays, SAQs, etc.). The Bronze (15%) category will include daily quizzes and other small class or homework assignments.

### **Make-up Rules:**

#### **Full-credit:**

Students have **three** (3) days per excused absence to arrange with Coach Marsh to make-up work for full credit. It is the **STUDENT'S** responsibility to ask for make-up work. (Shelby County Code of Conduct; Regulations Governing Attendance - D, 1)

#### **Tests:** (all tests full-credit)

Tests can be made up during office hours or Intervention (7<sup>th</sup> Period). Check with Coach Marsh for scheduling.

### **EAET: Every Assignment Every Time**

Late assignments will be due **before the first tardy bell** on the following school day. The late assignment will not be accepted unless accompanied by the EAET form in order to receive 60% credit. Failure to return **both** items will result in After School Assignment Completion (ASAC). Assignments completed in ASAC will receive 50% credit.

### **Extra Credit:**

Extra credit assignments will NOT be available for this course; however, there are opportunities to earn bonus points on many assignments.

### **Class Rules:**

1. Be on time
2. Be prepared - all class materials, book, paper, pencil, **every day!**
3. Sit in your desk properly
4. **Do your own work!**
5. Respect yourself and others

## **Academic Dishonesty/Cheating**

**2016-17 Shelby County Code of Conduct – page 4**

**Class II Violation 209 – page 12**

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY - Integrity means to integrate one's values and beliefs into every activity that is undertaken. The Shelby County School District believes that honesty is right and that stealing and cheating are wrong. Academic integrity means doing one's own work to the best of one's ability, without the unauthorized help or assistance of someone else. Therefore, in an effort to foster

academic integrity in all Shelby County students, this honor code has been created to help students recognize, understand, and practice ethical conduct with regard to their academic assignments. There are various academic scenarios pertaining to the completion of academic assignments that would be considered unethical. These instances include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Cheating:** copying another student's work, and is *inclusive of both giving and receiving information on an academic assignment*.
- **Plagiarism:** defined as either the intentional or unintentional use of another person's words, ideas, or data without providing the proper acknowledgement of the source through quotations, references, or footnotes.
- **Fabrication/Falsification:** scenario in which one either invents or distorts the origin or content of information used as authority. This is inclusive of citing a source that does not exist, citing information from a source that does not actually contain the information that was cited, as well as listing a bibliography source when the source was neither referenced nor cited in the assignment.

Generally, when academic assignments are made, the expectation is that each student will do their own work without the help or assistance of others. Exceptions to this expectation might include group projects in which the teacher authorized certain students to work together on a particular assignment. When instances of academic dishonesty have been discovered, typically, either reduced credit or possibly no credit (i.e., a "zero") will be awarded. Further, instances of academic dishonesty will be documented in the student's individual conduct file, and additional consequences may also be assigned as applicable to the particular incident.

## Quotes on Citizenship

"And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

—John F. Kennedy, 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

— Ronald Reagan, 40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

— Martin Luther King Jr., American civil rights leader



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My signature indicates I have reviewed all of the information set forth in the syllabus. Detach the signature form and return to Coach Marsh, be sure to save the syllabus for future reference.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student's Name

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

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

### Contact Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone#                      Home                      Cell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email