

7th Grade Civics/Geography Syllabus
Calera Middle School
2015-2016

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 7th 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 7th Grade Civics/Geography. The curriculum for 7th 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:

You will need to 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. Be prepared to read. Quizzes will assess vocabulary and reading comprehension. Review questions 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 will use a universal grading system which divides grades into 3 weighted categories. The Gold category (50%) will include major tests, projects and the 9 weeks assessment. The Silver category (35%) will include 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 (7th 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 will be many opportunities to earn bonus points on 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

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, 35th 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, 40th President of the United States

Quotes on Citizenship (cont.):

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

- Mohandas Gandhi, Indian nonviolent civil rights leader

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

- Martin Luther King Jr., American civil rights leader

"We need to restore the meaning of that old word, duty. It is the other side of rights."

- Pearl S. Buck, American author

"Citizenship is what makes a republic; monarchies can get along without it."

-Mark Twain, American author, humorist



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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