CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY - ELECTIVE COURSE

Lincoln High School

Mrs. Grace Small [smallg@lincolnps.org](mailto:smallg@lincolnps.org) Room C-30

2016-2017

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| **Lincoln High School Academic and Civic Expectations**   * *Students will be thoughtful communicators who read, write, listen and speak effectively in preparation for careers and/or post-secondary education* * *Students will demonstrate continuous effort towards proficiency in all requirements for graduation* * *Students will assume responsibility for their actions* * *Students will contribute to the well-being of the wider community through service* * *Students will recognize their importance as participating members of American society within a global context* * *Students will be creative and practical problem solvers* * *Students will be responsible users of technology and media* |

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. I look forward to working with each of you in the Civic Responsibility course. It is my goal to ensure that you are well prepared to succeed in this semester course and meet the proficiency based requirements for graduation.

It is vital to any student’s success that the teacher, parents and the student work together. Always feel free to contact me through the e-mail address above. I will make every effort to reply within 24 hours.

# I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The objective of the Civic Responsibility course is to prepare students to develop the skills and understanding necessary to deal critically with themes and problems in the area of civic participation. Since the most fundamental need in our democracy is for an enlightened and responsible citizenry, by studying the principles of American government and their modern application, students will learn about their rights and responsibilities as American citizens. To help students achieve the goals of the Lincoln High School Mission Statement, the Civic Responsibility course empowers students to become productive citizens in a global society. In this required course, students will apply what they have learned in the classroom to the community at large by their participation in a Community Service project comprised of fifteen hours of volunteer service. To prepare students for their roles as citizens, students must develop and successfully fulfill the requirements for an approved service project.

*(adapted from the Lincoln High School Civic Responsibility Curriculum}*

#### II. CLASS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. **Come to class prepared --** Assignments are completed prior to the beginning of class. Be seated and ready to begin by the second bell by writing down the learning objective on the board and completing the entrance ticket.
2. **Prevent technology violations –** To use a cell phone or piece of technology when not directed by the teacher is disrespectful and a distraction to learning. This means that after an initial warning, I will write up a disciplinary referral for the prohibited use of a cell phone, i-pod or other technological device in the classroom without my express consent. Filming and recording in class are prohibited.

3. **Respect the rights of others** – Always behave in a mature and respectful manner. One person talks while everyone else listens respectfully. Recognize your own dignity and treat others with respect. In our classroom community both the students and the teacher are safe to exchange ideas in a civil way that reflects living in a civil, pluralistic and democratic society.

4. **Respect for school property as well as the property of others --** Keep your textbook in good condition. Once it is assigned to you, it is your responsibility and you must pay for its replacement if it is lost.

4. **Honor and Integrity** - Do Your Own Work! **–** Cheating from another student’s work or plagiarizing online materials is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.

**III. STANDARDS BASED INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS:**

Unit 1: Political Participation and Voter Behavior

Chapter 16: Political Parties

Section 1: Development of Parties

Section 2: Party Organization

Section 3: Nominating Candidates

Chapter 17: Elections and Voting

Section 1: Election Campaigns

Section 2: Expanding Voting Rights

Section 3: Influences on Voters

Unit 2: Foundations of Government

Chapter 1: People and Government

Section 1: Principles of Government

Section 2: The Formation of Governments

Section 3: Types of Government

Section 4: Economic Theories

Unit 3: Comparative Political and Economic Systems

Chapter 25: Political Systems in Today’s World

Section 1: Democratic Governments

Section 2: Authoritarian Governments

Section 3: International Organizations

Section 4: Global Issues

Chapter 2: The Origins of American Government

Section 1: The Colonial Period

Section 2: Uniting for Independence

Section 3: The Articles of Confederation

Section 4: The Constitutional Convention

Unit 4: The Constitution and Federalism

Chapter 3: The Constitution

Section 1: Structure and Principles

Section 2: Three Branches of Government

Section 3: Amending the Constitution

Section 4: The Amendments

Unit 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Chapter 13: Constitutional Freedoms

Section 1: Constitutional Rights

Section 2: Freedom of Religion

Section 3: Freedom of Speech

Unit 6: Community Service Project

Oral Presentations of Community Service Projects

Cumulative Final Exam

**IV. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

* Students are expected to keep a folder for the material covered during class lectures, discussions, presentations and outlines of chapter readings.
* Students are expected to give a brief presentation on a topic they have chosen from an approved list. On the assigned day, the student must be well organized and engaging. In presenting the topic the student must also provide stimulating questions to help direct class discussion. Each presentation/discussion should last about 15 minutes.
* Class discussions are a daily item. They are based on close reading of text, daily writing and current events in the news relating to civic responsibility and American politics and government. Each student is expected to participate in class discussions.
* Each semester students will complete a 15 hour community service project approved by the instructor and completed throughout the semester.

**V. ASSESSMENT**

* Quizzes will be given to ensure that reading assignments are being done and content is understood.
* Tests will be announced and will be taken after each Unit.
* The **Community Service Project** weighs 40% of the student’s semester average. Students will be evaluated on their Plan of Activism, Community Service Supervisor Form, signed Journal Log of 15 hours of service, and Reflective Essay. If the Community Service Project is incomplete the student fails the course and will not graduate until it is complete.
* At the end of the semester, a comprehensive examination is given. Senior students with a 90+ cumulative average may, at the teacher’s discretion, be exempt from the Final Exam.

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| |  | | --- | | Chapter Tests, Common Task, Projects= 30% **Community Service Project (CS) = 40%**  **Plan, Supervisor letter, Log, Reflection** Quizzes, homework, etc.= 20%  Formative Assessments = 10% | |  |

**VI. COURSE TEXT**

Remy, Richard C.United States Government – Democracy in Action. New York: The McGraw Hill Companies, Inc. 2010.

**VII. HOMEWORK AND TEST POLICY**

All assignments must be turned in to the teacher, not in the teacher’s mailbox, given to another teacher or student. Your name, period, and date must be in the upper right hand corner of **each assignment**. **Late assignments turned in the next class day will receive partial credit of a 70 and a 0 beyond that**. For excused absences, assignments are due by the third day the student returns to class unless prior arrangements have been made for emergencies. Work and/or involvement in extracurricular activities are NOT acceptable reasons for failing to do course work in a timely manner. Time management is an important skill in a Civic Responsibility course. You are also expected to keep a well-organized binder of all course-related materials (e.g. syllabus, study guides, guided reading packets, homework, handouts, etc.).

Some assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. Here is your invite code to our Google Classroom page for Civics. o28gjsy

**Missed Exams:** Students with an excused absence on a day a test is given must make up the test upon their return to class **after school**. If a student is absent for an extended period (e.g., more than five days), the student must approach the teacher to make an appointment for making-up the test. Complete loss of credit for an exam may result if the exam is not completed within five days after the exam is issued.

**VIII. MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!**

Communication is key to your success, so if you are having a problem, talk to me as soon as the problem arises. Civic Responsibility is an engaging and interesting class that requires the student to be a problem solver. Be prepared to think and be challenged each day. Your personal achievement and the success of this class depend on your attitude and effort. There is no limit to the understanding we can develop together!

**\*\*\*THIS COURSE IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS\*\*\***

**Mrs. Small: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I have read and understand the Civic Responsibility and Lincoln High School course objectives, expectations, requirements and grading policies.

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**Student Signature Date**

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**Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Date**

Parent/Legal Guardian E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information**: Is there anything you would like me to know about contact numbers, best times to call, best way to contact you, etc.? Is there anything you would like me to know about your student?

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Please use the reverse side of this sheet if you need more space. Thank you.