



Civics, 16-17, Third Trimester

Grand Ledge High School Main Office: (517) 925 - 5815

Mr. John Mark Ellsworth, Social Studies Teacher

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Room 108, available before school 7:40 - 7:55 and after school 2:45 - 3:10

Ms. Beth Boyd, Academic Coach & Teacher

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Purpose / Course Description:

From Course Description Book: “Democratic societies do not function without the participation of informed and responsible citizens. Civic education, therefore, is one of public education’s central missions. To participate effectively, American citizens need knowledge about their government and society as well as intellectual skills, participatory skills, and civic dispositions. Acquisition of civic knowledge and skills makes possible a reasoned commitment to those fundamental values and principles essential to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy. This is a highly active student-centered course designed to enhance the student’s analysis of the American Political System and the individual citizen’s role within it. Through a number of methods of instruction, including individual, small and large group projects; the student will gain a broad base of knowledge about the federal system, political policies and practices. We will accomplish this by studying our Core Democratic Values, the structure of our government, and America’s relationship with other nations. Learning activities will include library and Internet research, group presentations, analyzing primary documents, current event and current issue discussions, and journal writing. This course focuses on the Michigan High School Social Studies Content Expectations for Civics: Conceptual Foundations of Civic and Political Life; Origins and Foundations of Government of the United States of America; Structure and Function of Government in the United States of America; The United States of America and World Affairs; Citizenship in the United States of America; and Citizenship in Action.”

Mr. Ellsworth’s Course Philosophy: This course will be conducted in a **safe atmosphere; harassment and bullying are NOT acceptable; encouragement and compliments are acceptable!** You and I will endeavor to maintain a **social contract**, an agreement of behavior. You and I will work together to **learn more about Civics**. We will strive to **improve** ourselves, we will work to **build a better community** and, we will act in accordance with **Comet PRIDE** (positive, responsible, integrity, determined, engaged).

Topics, Concepts, or Units of Study:

- The American People, textbook chapter 1
- Roots of American Democracy, textbook chapter 2
- The Constitution, textbook chapter 3
- The Bill of Rights, textbook chapter 4
- Citizenship & Government in Democracy, textbook chapter 5
- Three Branches of the National Government, textbook chapter 6-8
- Political Parties & Politics, textbook chapter 9
- Voting & Elections, textbook chapter 10
- Influencing Government, textbook chapter 11

Textbooks Used and Other Sources:

The main text you will be studying is Glencoe's *Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics, & You*. We will be using this text and more sources, some of which are video, handouts, and my lectures.

Materials Needed & Supplies Suggested:

Be ready to learn and show me you are learning. Please bring a writing utensil and paper to class everyday. Please keep a folder for this class. (I can provide you with a manila folder.) In that folder, keep materials (notes, handouts, and whatnot) for this class.

Methods of Instruction:

You will be studying Civics, and you will read the textbook, listen to me talk, take notes, participate in discussions, and do instructional activities. During the course, you will complete instructional activities (in-class assignments, writing prompts, online assignments, quizzes, tests, and/or other activities) by yourself, with a partner, in small groups, or as a class (as directed by me).

Evaluation / Grade Calculations -AND- Types of Evaluation and Assessment:

I will assign point values to instructional activities. The trimester grade will be determined by figuring a percentage based on the points you earn compared to the total possible points possible. Also note that the **trimester exam is worth 10%** of the final trimester grade.

During the course, you will complete instructional activities (in-class assignments, writing prompts, online assignments, quizzes, tests, and/or other activities) by yourself, with a partner, in small groups, or as a class (as directed by me). **Typically each week, you will be asked to read a chapter from the textbook and to take notes on it. During the week, we will do a variety of instructional activities in the classroom. Most Fridays you will be given a quiz that covers both the chapter from the textbook and the material covered in class that week.** Finally, there will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the trimester.

Grading Scale:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

Points earned will be divided by points possible to determine a percentage that is translated to a letter grade using the table on the left. Also note that the **trimester exam is worth 10%** of the final trimester grade.

Assignment Expectations:

Near the top of anything turned in for points, you need to have your name and the class period you have this course. All work must be **legible**. Specifically, I want you to strive to learn more about U.S. history and show me you are learning. **You also are expected to follow my standards of academic integrity (see below).**

Late Assignments:

Practice good time management and plan ahead! **Primarily, I want you to learn and show me you are learning.** Secondly, I want you to turn things in on time.

Classroom Procedures:

Student Responsibilities & Expectations: Maintain our social contract. Learn, and show me you are learning. Improve and build a better community. Demonstrate Comet PRIDE.

Consequences: Failing to meet these expectations may result in teacher warnings, parental involvement, and involvement of the school administration.

Passes:

At my discretion, you may use a hall pass during class, and only one student at a time. **Limit your use of the hall pass to only when it is absolutely necessary.** (Instead of using the hall pass, you should make good choices before school, during passing periods, at lunchtime, and after school.) You must have my permission to use the hall pass; you may **not** just take my hall pass and use it.

Cheating:

The act of obtaining answers or completing assignments in a fraudulent or deceitful manner. Disciplinary action will be determined by staff and administrators. Possible zero grade for assignment and possible in-school suspension (1 hour - 3 days).

You also are expected to follow my standards of academic integrity (see below).

Attendance -AND- Tardy Policy:

The complete attendance/tardy policy is available online in the Grand Ledge High School Handbook: <http://www.glcomets.net/parentcommunityresources/studenthandbooks/> .

Pages 21-24 of the Grand Ledge High School Student Handbook are about the attendance and tardy policy.

Additional Operational Information:

Mr. Ellsworth's Standards of Academic Integrity:

- I will strive to learn, maintain our social contract, and demonstrate Comet PRIDE.
- I will do my work following the instructions given for it and using only the appropriate resources for it.
- I will do my own work. I will not copy what someone else has down.
- I have not received any information about instructional activities, assignments, quizzes, tests, or exams from a source other than directly from Mr. Ellsworth, and I will not provide any information about instructional activities, assignments, quizzes, tests, or exams.

You may consume FOOD & DRINK in my classroom so long as you are responsible with it and it is not a distraction. You may **not** have food or drink in my classroom if you are tardy to class.

The difference between QUIZZES and TESTS/EXAMS in Mr. Ellsworth's course:

Notes that you have created may be used on **quizzes** in my class. Notes may **not** be used on tests or exams in my class. You may **not** use the textbook for quizzes, tests, or exams.

Mr. Ellsworth's SPECIAL RULES for quizzes, tests, & exams:

SPECIAL RULE #1: You may take quizzes, tests, and exams when you are ready, but I only schedule one time during class time to take quizzes, tests, and exams. So, you do NOT have to take quizzes, tests, or exams when the rest of class is doing so, BUT you will have to schedule a time to make them up. The rescheduled quiz or test must happen **before school** (arrive in my room before 7:20 A.M.) or **after school** (arrive in my room before 2:52 P.M.), per Mr. Ellsworth's availability. **You will NOT be allowed to make them up during class time.** Do not abuse this rule... it should be used rarely. However, if you're absent Thursday or multiple times, consider waiting to take the quiz. Also, if you forgot your notes, you may want to reschedule. **LIMIT: You must make up the quiz, test, or exam before you can delay another one; you may not have two quizzes, tests, and/or exams that you have delayed.**

SPECIAL RULE #2: NO RETAKES! Since I allow you to take quizzes, tests, and exams when you are ready, I do not allow retakes.

SPECIAL RULE #3: Once you start a quiz, test, or exam, you must finish it all in one sitting. I am happy to write passes if you need extra time, but you must complete quizzes and tests once you begin them. This means, for example, you may not start a quiz during class and then finish it after school.

SPECIAL RULE #4: You are responsible for everything that went on in class, EVEN IF YOU WERE GONE. This includes videos we watched in class. (I am happy to arrange viewings before or after school, but videos will NOT be lent to students to view at home.) So you may want to pick a classmate you trust to help fill you in on what you miss when you are gone. You must be proactive to learn what you missed.

<http://iComets.org>

I have a website for my courses at Grand Ledge High School. Lots of information can be found on the website including this syllabus and lots more. Please visit <http://iComets.org> and bookmark the page.

Mr. Ellsworth's TECHNOLOGY POLICY: Only use openly and appropriately.

I support and allow technology's use (such as smart phones, iPods, etc.), but only **openly** and **appropriately**.

All use of devices must be done openly. If you want to use your device, you must do so openly – on or above the table. I want to be able to see what you are doing. If a device is being used while also being concealed, I will enforce the student handbook and confiscate the device. For example, I will confiscate your device if you attempt to use it and hide it under the table or in your lap or in your pocket. I would also confiscate your device if you use it while trying to conceal it behind or in a backpack or purse. Switching from an inappropriate use back to something appropriate when I walk by will result in your device being confiscated.

All use of devices must be academically appropriate. You might use your device to add due dates, take a picture of notes on the screen or dry erase board, look up your grades, or do an online assignment. Inappropriate uses include (but are not limited to) texting, social media, gaming, and selfies.

The following is from the student handbook. (Did you know a skateboard is a personal electronic device?)

<p>25. Possession of Personal Electronic Devices: Electronic devices including CD's, radios, cassettes, headphones, walkie-talkies, i-pods, MP3 players, electronic games, skateboards, laser pointers, video cameras, etc. will not be used during class hours. <i>Note: The school is not responsible for items lost or stolen. Please leave all valuable items at home. Unauthorized video-taping is strictly prohibited.</i></p>	<p>1st Offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Device confiscated and returned to student at end of day. <p>2nd Offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Device confiscated, parent to pick up. <p>3rd Offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Device confiscated, parent pick up.• Parent meeting with administrator• Possible In/Out of School Suspension 1 Hour–10 Days.• Possible loss of privileges.
<p>26. Possession of Cell Phones, Hand-Held Computers, Pagers Camera-Like Devices, and Other Communication Devices Students are prohibited from using cell phones or other electronic communication devices (ECD) while in the classrooms unless it is for learning purposes. "Using" refers to making/receiving calls, text messaging, videotaping, picture taking, audio recording or using the ECD for any other purpose. Cell phones and ECDs shall be turned off and stored away out of sight during class time. Use of these devices shall be limited to periods before and after school, passing times and lunch periods. Students are strictly prohibited from using cell phones and other ECDs in locker rooms or restrooms. Cell phones and ECDs may not be "ON" or otherwise used in locker rooms or restrooms whether here or at another school district where a school activity or athletic event is taking place. The use of cell phones or ECDs in an unauthorized manner or in violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, depending on the nature of the prohibited activity and/or whether it is a repeat offense by that student. The administration reserves the right to modify the consequences, as appropriate.</p> <p>Note: The school is NOT responsible for items lost or stolen. Please leave all valuables at home.</p>	<p>1st Offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Device confiscated and returned to student at end of day. <p>2nd Offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Device confiscated, parent to pick up. <p>3rd Offense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Device confiscated, parent to pick up.• Parent meeting with administrator• Possible In/Out of School Suspension 1 Hour–10 Days.• Possible loss of privileges

MR. ELLSWORTH'S CIVICS TENTATIVE DATES:

Friday, March 24 for **Quiz 1, The American People**

Thursday, March 30 for **Quiz 2, Roots of American Democracy**

Friday, April 21 for **Quiz 3, Constitution**

Friday, April 28 for **Quiz 4, Bill of Rights**

Friday, May 5 for **Quiz 5, Citizenship & Government in Democracy**

Monday, May 8 for a MAKE-UP MONDAY!

Friday, May 19 for **Combined BIG QUIZ 6, 7, & 8, Three Branches of the National Government**

Friday, May 26 for **Quiz 9, Political Parties & Politics**

Friday, June 2 for **Quiz 10, Voting & Elections**

Monday, June 5 for another MAKE-UP MONDAY!

Friday, June 9 for **Quiz 11, Influencing Government**

Monday or Tuesday, June 12 or 13 for **FINAL EXAM (10% of overall grade)**

Comet PRIDE Keys To Success

- **BE POSITIVE**
 - Bring a positive attitude to school.
 - Be respectful and friendly to fellow Comets and guests.
 - Keep language and behavior G-Rated.
- **BE RESPONSIBLE**
 - Attend school daily.
 - Attending school daily has been shown to improve test scores, raise grades, improve enjoyment level of school and help with on-time graduation.
 - Attendance is a **JOB SKILL** that employers require.
- **HAVE INTEGRITY**
 - Dress for academic success.
 - Keep your apparel and accessories G-Rated.
 - Grand Ledge High School is a professional environment.
- **BE DETERMINED**
 - Ask teachers and other staff members for help and support.
 - Utilize resources, including help rooms and Student Services.
- **BE ENGAGED**
 - Limit phones and devices to appropriate times and locations.
 - Check with your teachers regarding use of electronics in their classroom.

