

Honors Civics and Economics Class Syllabus

Course: Honors Civics and Economics
Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Teacher: Mr. Jay Niessner
2015-2016 School Year

Contact Info:

Email – jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

Phone – 704-296-3088 Ext. 7158

Planning Period – 3rd Period 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Course Description: I wish to welcome everyone to Honors Civics and Economics. Civics and Economics is both an exciting and challenging course to take. It covers the make up of our government as well as how the U.S. economy works.

NC DPI Course Standards for this course can be found at:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/social-studies/civics.pdf>

Materials Needed: Everyone should come prepared for class with:

Text Books	Spiral notebook	Highlighters (helpful not necessary)
A three ring binder	Paper	Colored Pencils (helpful not necessary)
Pen or pencil	Glue Sticks (helpful not necessary)	

Classroom rules: I base all of my rules on one word, **RESPECT**. I expect each student to respect themselves, other students, and the teacher.

Grading Policy: All assignments are due on time at the beginning of class. Assignments turned in late can be worth up to 50%.

Grades:

Homework: Students will have homework almost every night of the week. Homework assignments will be worth about twenty five points each. Homework that is late may be turned in the following day for up to half credit. Homework is due at the start of class. (20-30 Points Each)

Bell Ringers: Students will have bell ringers at the start of each class. Students are to make sure that they date their bell ringer and answer all of the questions. I will collect these bell ringers on Friday's. Each day's bell ringer is worth five points for a total of twenty five points during a full school week. (25 Possible Points)

Vocabulary Quizzes: Students will have weekly vocabulary quizzes. The vocabulary words for the next week will be given to students on Friday after that week's quiz. The vocabulary quizzes will be on Friday. Vocabulary quizzes will not only cover that weeks words but will also review the past

weeks words, this is to help students build their vocabulary for the final exam. Vocabulary Quizzes are worth between fifty and seventy five points each. (50-75 Points Each)

Participation: All students are expected to participate in class discussions about Civics and Economics topics. Students will also be expected to participate in class debates on related topics. These debates and participation activities will require higher thinking and analyzing skills. Each student will be able to earn up to one hundred participation points for each of the three grading periods. (100 Points per Grading Period)

Unit Tests: Tests will be on more than one chapter. Tests will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching and essay questions. Test point value will vary from test to test as each goal varies in length and content. Students usually have four tests throughout the semester.

Projects: Students will complete one project per grading period. These projects will be handed out the first week of each grading period and will be due the last week of the grading period. Project point value will vary from project to project, comprising of **15-20%** of the current grading periods final grade.

Final Exam: The final exam for Honors Civics and Economics is worth 25% of your student's grade for the semester. The test is 300 questions and is teacher made.

Other Notes: All homework, bell ringers, study guides, and projects are due at the start of class, if they are not handed in at the time I collect them they will be considered late and therefore receive points off.

How is Honors Different from College Prep?

Civics and Economics is an honors level course. This course is also available in the Program of Studies at the College Preparatory level. Students earning credit for an Honors level course receive an elevated number of Quality Points for their Grade Point Average. Students choosing the Honors level course should be aware that this Honors level course will include:

- Required extension opportunities that are directly related to the Standard Course of Study. This includes additional content beyond that covered in the College Preparatory level.
- More challenging coursework and assessments. Students will be expected to demonstrate higher levels of understanding for grades.
- Projects and presentations will be more in depth.
- Students will have to focus and study regularly to master the content.
- The expectation that students can move through the coursework at an accelerated pace and students experiencing difficulty should quickly seek guidance from their teacher on how they can be more successful.

Examples of Honors Differentiation in this Course

The entire NC Standard Course of Study by clicking here:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/new-standards/>

Below is a sample of how the Honors level objectives may differ from those in the College Preparatory level:

HONORS Level Objective	COLLEGE PREP Level Objective
FP.PFL.1.3 Analyze how managing a checking and savings account contributes to financial well-being (e.g., deposits, withdrawals, transfers, automated transactions, fees, etc.).	FP.FPL.1.3 Learn how to manage a checking and a savings account so that one may have a sound personal budget.

This differentiation in objectives results in different assignments and assessments. Below is a sample of how the Honors level assignments/assessments may differ in this course:

HONORS level assignment	COLLEGE PREP level assignment
Students will complete a check book activity listing income and spending over a set period of time. They will balance the check book then spend time analyzing the checkbook. Students will then analyze how they could save more money, spend more wisely, look for discounts, open different kinds of savings and retirement accounts	Students will learn how to balance a check book, dealing with income and expenditures over a set period of time

Learning Platform at Central Academy

Canvas: The majority of assignments will be submitted on our new "learning platform," Canvas. Assignments can be submitted a variety of ways including, uploading files, typing into text boxes, and sharing Google documents/presentations. Students not having used Canvas before should alert the teacher and they will be shown how to submit assignments on Canvas. Individual assignments will indicate which method of submission on Canvas is expected. If students need a refresher or have questions, they can access the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for specific instructions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure assignments are submitted on time and to contact the instructor if there is a problem. The Canvas Learning Platform logs every student log-in on Canvas which provides teachers with a list of when students log-in to Canvas using their user id.

Canvas is used to grade assignments as well, however, the grades in Canvas, while accurate to that assignment, are NOT the teacher's gradebook. The teacher's gradebook includes categories of assignments that may be weighted differently and may include grades for assignments that did not use the Canvas Learning Platform. Therefore, students and parents should always check their child's true average on the Parent Portal on Powerschool.