

Civics Fall 2007

Anna Howell

Welcome to Civics class. I am excited to have you as a student. I hope we can work together to make this a class that is as enjoyable as it is educational.

Basic Course Description

During the fall semester we will be studying Civics. The purpose of the Civics class is to make the students aware of their privileges and responsibilities as citizens and to help them acquire knowledge about the United States government. By the end of the semester, each child will know much more about their own country and the workings of their government, and be expected to have a greater understanding and respect for differing political subjects and viewpoints.

Classroom Discipline Policy

“For the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.” Heb. 12:6

My classroom, like most others, has some rules that are to be constantly followed and will be strictly enforced. The following is the policy of my classroom:

1. **Be Obedient:**

- A. Follow directions as soon as told by the teacher.
- B. Follow all school rules (dress code, gum, food, etc.)

2. **Be Respectful:**

- A. Do not talk while someone else is talking.
- B. Keep hands, feet, and inappropriate objects to yourself.

3. **Be Responsible:**

- A. Bring required materials to class every day.
- B. **Be in your seat and responding each day as the bell BEGINS ringing.**

Consequences

The following are consequences that will be applied if a student chooses not to obey the rules, which I expect to be rarely: in-class warning; a parent contact; teacher detention; principal referral. The teacher retains the right to send a student straight to the principal in a situation of severe behavior.

Tardy Policy

In my classroom, a student is tardy if his or her bottom is not in his/her seat when the bell **begins** ringing. If you are more than 10 minutes late to my class, GAC and I consider you AWOL.

Great Expectations

I expect great things from all of my students, academically and behaviorally. I have found that it is best if I tell students what it is I expect right up front. The following is a list of behaviors that I expect in my classroom:

- I expect each student to be actively involved during each class period – that means no sleeping. I expect each student to listen if I am teaching during the class period. Comments or questions should be made respectfully when no one else is talking.
- I encourage the open discussion of ideas. I expect each student to be respectful of his or her classmates during discussion. No rude remarks, racial slurs, or lude comments should be made, and no one should talk while a class member is talking. **Government ideas are challenging and diverse and the classroom is an excellent environment for discussion of all sides of issues. Students should keep an open mind, be willing to**

listen, and be willing to contribute. I will often play “devil’s advocate” and challenge students’ thoughts and ideas

- I expect each student to turn in all work on time and completely finished. Partially completed work is not accepted. **Participation in school field trips or sports events does not give the student the right to turn work in late.** All work should be put in Mrs. Howell’s box ahead of schedule if the student will be absent for a school sponsored event.
- **I expect each student to be prepared for each class period.** He or she should always bring the appropriate text book(s), his/her Civics notebook, and a writing utensil and have them ready to go when the bell rings.
- I expect a good attitude at all times.
- I expect the GACS dress code to be followed. Any student not in dress code will be written up to Coach Thames. You are expected to be in dress code on campus from the time you arrive at school until 3:30 PM.

Grading

Grades in this class are given on a point system. Your final grade represents the percentage of points earned out of the total possible points.

Make up work is the student’s responsibility and is accepted only in the case of excused absences as stated in the GACS handbook. **Make up tests must be taken by the Friday immediately following the missed test.**

The following are the ways in which a student will be graded in my class throughout the school year.

- A. **Chapter tests:** a test will be given at the conclusion of each chapter/multiple chapters.
- B. **Chapter quizzes:** quizzes will be given at Mrs. Howell’s discretion, and may be given without notice. Quizzes will not account for more than 30 points.
- C. **Notebook:** each student should have a black three ring “binder” notebook **for this class only.** The notebook will be graded at the end of a six week period. There should be divided sections for the following: (1) handouts (2) notes (3) homework (4) responses and (5) tests and quizzes.
- D. **Projects:** information will be given, in writing, throughout the semester regarding projects.
- E. **Homework:** any homework assigned by the teacher including reinforcement worksheets, vocabulary, and chapter reviews. The use of net classroom is mandatory. However, your homework will also be written on the board each day. **LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- F. **Final exam:** there will be a comprehensive final exam at the end of first semester. It will count as 10% of the semester grade. **THERE WILL BE NO EXEMPTIONS!!** There will be no exam second semester.

Help Sessions

Help sessions will be conducted the morning of all chapter tests at 7:40 in JH222—Mrs. Howell’s classroom—unless otherwise stated. Attendance is encouraged.

The Honor Code

In order to maintain honor in our relationships, we all agree to do what is *right*, to speak the *truth*, and to strive for *integrity* in all that we do. Therefore, we will not be involved in *lying, cheating, or stealing*. If we do vary from this path of honor, we will accept the correction from others and the established consequences of this school. *Honor* is a goal that we seek to attain.

Conclusion

I am excited about this school year. I know it will be great if we work together. If there is anything I can do for you, you may contact me by using the following channels:

Email address: ahowell@greateratlantachristian.org
Home phone: 678 489 3769 – No calls after 8 PM, please!

Student Response

Please sign this page and turn it back in to me as requested.

Put the remaining part of the syllabus in the handouts section of your Civics notebook.

I have read and understand the information in both pages of my Civics syllabus. I pledge to uphold the policies and procedures stated in this syllabus. I will do my best to meet the expectations as stated by Mrs. Howell. I pledge to follow the GACS Honor Code.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Name (signature) _____