

CIVICS

Section 1 - Tuesdays & Thursdays | 12:35–1:55PM | Newrow Class Connect [LIVE]

Why is our
government
the way it is?

How does
voting work?

What do the
courts do?

How can I make
the world a
better place?

If these questions interest you, you'll love this class. In this course, we'll grapple with these questions and learn how to think critically about government and society—skills that will benefit you through high school and beyond. My goal is that you will become a better student and citizen, confident in your ability to participate in our democracy in an educated and responsible way.

As an introduction to civics and US government, we'll cover everything from the ancient origins of democracy to current events concerning elections and court decisions. We'll also discuss different political philosophies and the history of political change in this country. Additionally, we'll learn how to think critically about information sources that we come across online. Throughout the semester, you'll be encouraged to apply your knowledge of the material to your own lives, as well as the world around you. Welcome to Civics!

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION



Professor: Daniel Estevao

Please call me: Mister E or Mr. Estevao

How do you pronounce that?: Like the Spanish word “este” and English word “vow”

Ask me about: history, literature, current events, getting into college, SATs, study tips, movies/shows, music, art, law, philosophy, psychology, writing, marketing and media



Education: University of Southern California, BA in Comparative Literature & History

Email: destevao@insightpa.org (expect a response within 24-48 hours, except weekends)

Schoolology: insightpa.schoolology.com/home

Website/Social Media: historywithmistere.com | @historywithmistere

Office hours (aka WIN time): M–Th: 3:30-4:00 (email to make an appointment outside of those times)

Why come to office hours: get to know your teacher, personalized help with assignments, answers about grades, college/career/life advice, and general support

A little about me: I was born and raised in North Jersey, but have lived in California, Texas, Argentina, Japan, and now Pennsylvania. I graduated with honors from the University of Southern California, with a Comparative Literature major and History minor. Before beginning my teaching career 3 years ago, I worked as a creative director, copywriter, journalist, graphic designer, and trivia host. When I was about your age (17), I rode my bicycle from Virginia Beach (Atlantic Ocean) to San Francisco (Pacific Ocean).



TA/Paraprofessional: Abbey Perry (Mrs. Perry)

Email: aperry@ispacyber.net

Ask your TA about: Course logistics, grades on your assignments, they're a great first stop for pretty much anything you need

COURSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

For lectures, we'll be meeting online in [Newrow ClassConnect](#). Email/text me if you're ever having trouble getting into class. The lecture will be recorded and posted in the Recordings folder in Schoology.

Each lesson includes an interactive Nearpod. You are expected to participate and complete the Nearpod while in class, but you always have the opportunity to complete the interactive Nearpod at your own pace (links provided in Schoology). All grades close ONE week after the unit ends.

At the end of each unit, there will be an assessment (project, paper, test, etc.). There will also be other assignments, such as discussion posts, PlayPosit videos, and ClassKick documents.

Please let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns.

COURSE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

In the spirit of simplicity, there are no required textbooks. I highly recommend taking notes by hand in a dedicated class notebook, but you will also be provided a digital notebook for your notes.

If you would like certain things explained in more detail, I recommend the resources listed here, but you will not be held accountable for anything that is not included in the lectures/Schoology. You can order a [free copy of the Constitution here](#).

While this is not an Advanced Placement (AP) course, we will be covering much of the information for that exam. If you're interested in taking the [AP Government & Politics exam](#) in May, I recommend studying with [Heimler's History YouTube channel](#) and resources.

Depending on your score, you can receive college credit from AP tests. [Learn more about AP tests here](#).

Recommended Resources

YouTube:

- [Heimler's History](#)
- [Crash Course](#)
- [National Constitution Center](#)

Podcasts:

- [Civics101](#)
- [National Constitution Center](#)

Websites:

- [iCivics](#)
- [National Constitution Center](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)

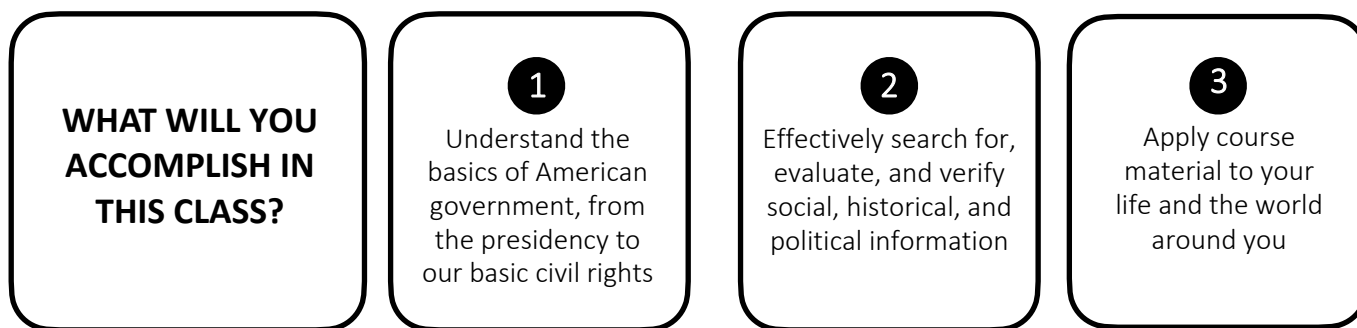
SCHOOLGY is where you'll be able to find all the materials for this class: agenda, lessons/lectures, recordings, resources, etc. (log in with your school Google account)



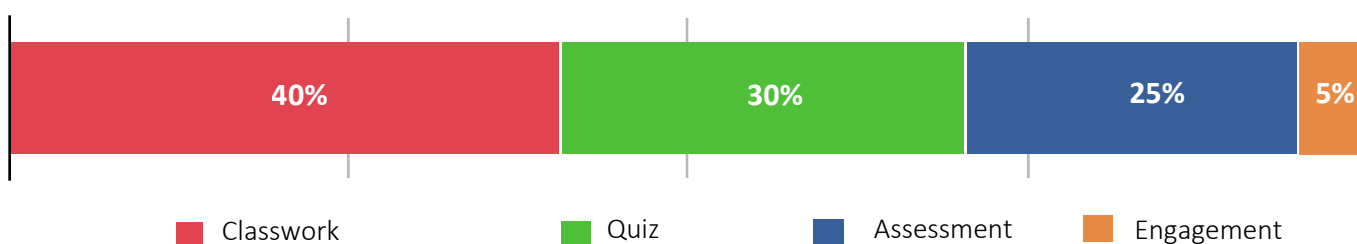
INSIGHT PA Resources:

- [Insight PA Website](#)
- [Schoology](#) (lessons, recordings, etc.)
- [K12 OLS](#) (Class Connect, schedule, etc.)
- [ISPA Resources](#) (contacts, forms, etc.)
- [Insight PA Student Handbook](#)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT



How will success be measured?



GRADING & ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION is mandatory unless there is an excellent reason. You are expected to log into our Schoology course every school day (M–F) and attend our scheduled live sessions. If you miss a live session, review the class recording and complete missing assignments in Schoology. Fill out the [Insight PA Attendance Form](#) immediately when it is not possible to log in. Refer to the [Insight PA Student Handbook](#) for information on attendance policies, truancy, and much more.

3 cumulative unexcused absences = truant, school district notified, SAIC invite & SAIP completed

Your presence and involvement are required during live sessions via Nearpod, chat, mic, etc, in order to get an engagement and classwork grade. Together these are 45% of your grade! Chronic tardiness will quickly start counting as unexcused absences.

LATE WORK POLICY

You are expected to complete all work by the due dates assigned in Schoology. All assignments close ONE week after the end of the unit (unless you have made arrangements with me). You have ONE attempt for each assignment, unless specified otherwise. Assignment redos are at the discretion of your teacher. Come to office hours for questions about grades and make-up work.

"Life happened and I need help": If you experience any kind of life-altering event or emergency that impacts your ability to stay afloat in all your classes, all you need to do is email me or [your counselor](#) and we will try to get you the help you need. Once we get you in touch with the right people, your counselor, advisor, and teachers will work with you to get you caught up and through the finish line.

GRADEBOOK

Every Friday (Monday at the latest), I will submit grades for assignments that were due from the previous week. You will receive a zero for any missing overdue assignments.

Remember, all assignments close ONE week after the end of each unit (unless you have made arrangements with me). And you only get ONE attempt per assignment (unless specified otherwise).

EXTRA CREDIT

There is no extra credit. For each unit, however, there is a Notebook and Student of the Month badge that you can earn which functions as a homework pass—I will drop your lowest classwork/quiz score for each badge.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with documented IEPs and 504 plans will be provided the accommodations appropriate to their individual plans. Contact the school's [Special Education department](#) for more information.

GRADING POLICIES

Final percentage scores will be rounded up/down to the nearest whole number from .50 and letter grades will be assigned according to the table below. Grades are finalized at the end of each quarter.

A		B		C		D		F
90-100	very, very good	80-89	good, above average	70-79	about average	60-69	let's talk	<60

All grades will close ONE week after the end of each unit (unless you've made arrangements with me). If you want to retake an assignment, you must make arrangements with me first.

PRO-TIP: Go to office hours (WIN time)! There is absolutely no shame in seeking support. In fact, it's a strategy for success in life. If you want to improve your performance in the class/school at any point, please reach out to me, another teacher, or your Advisor/Counselor as soon as you can.

WIN TIME: Monday–Thursday, 3:30–4:00

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work for this class must be done by YOU. You will receive a zero on any submitted assignment containing plagiarized content (in part or full). Students assisting other students to cheat or plagiarize are also considered in violation of this policy, and will receive a zero on their assignment submission. [Learn more about plagiarism here.](#)

For first time students who fail to cite the source of information in an essay or research paper, they will be advised of proper citation methods. Further infractions will result in receiving a grade of zero on the assignment. Students who are found guilty of cheating or plagiarism more than once will be referred to the school administration for breach of the school's [Behavior Code](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Make sure to give proper credit to all sources used in academic assignments, whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized. If you use generative AI to help you with an assignment, make sure to cite it, even if you're paraphrasing. I do NOT recommend quoting AI text, but if you do, put it in quotes and cite it. If you do use AI, please double-check the accuracy of the statements with your own research. Use another source for citations.

Here are some things to keep in mind when communicating with school staff or fellow students:

- Respect the privacy and wishes of your fellow students.
- Flaming, spamming, bullying or other unwanted contact, including inappropriate message content or attachments, will be considered a breach of this policy. Infractions may result in disciplinary action by the school administration.

PRO-TIP: If you feel even slightly tempted to engage in academic dishonesty for the sake of a better grade, come talk to me or your Advisor and we'll give you all sorts of tips to earn that grade you're hoping for. If you need more time to complete an assignment, just let me know and we can work on a solution.

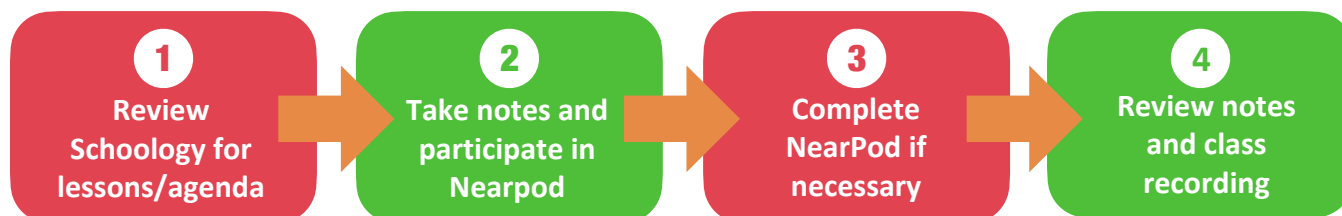
If you cheat, you could be putting your status at the school in jeopardy. Multiple violations can lead to suspension or expulsion. See the [Insight PA Student Handbook](#) for more info. You are also guaranteed to lose all my trust and make me very, very aggravated that I have to deal with it/you.

Do not cheat. That's really all there is to it.

CLASS RULES

1. Respect yourself, respect others.
2. You are required to attend every class and participate in our interactive lessons. If you miss class, watch the class recording and complete missing work in Schoology.
3. Return telephone calls and/or respond to e-mails from school staff regarding attendance and academics.
4. All assignments should be completed by the due date.
5. All submitted work must be your own (don't cheat and always cite your sources).
6. The work you submit should be carefully proofread and edited for typos, misspellings, awkward phrasing, and basic errors in usage and/or punctuation.

Basically, I'm expecting you to participate in class and do the required assignments—on time and with care. You should expect to spend at least an hour per school day on this class.



— BEFORE — — DURING — — AFTER “LECTURE” —

PACING GUIDE

Below is the general pacing guide for this semester-long class:

Unit 1: FOUNDATIONS OF CIVICS & GOVERNMENT

- 1.01 – Class Introduction
- 1.02 – Sovereign State
- 1.03 – Who Rules? Types of Government
- 1.04 – Ancient Athens & Rome
- 1.05 – Civic Online Reasoning
- 1.06 – Review & Assessment

Unit 2: ROAD TO REVOLUTION

- 2.01 – Enlightenment & the Colonies
- 2.02 – Independence & Articles of Confederation
- 2.03 – Constitutional Convention
- 2.04 – Race to Ratify
- 2.05 – Review & Assessment

Unit 3: THE CONSTITUTION & AMENDMENTS

- 3.01 – Anatomy of the Constitution (focus on Article 1)
- 3.02 – 3 Branches and Checks & Balances
- 3.03 – Articles 4-7
- 3.04 – The Bill of Rights
- 3.05 – The Amendments
- 3.06 – Review & Assessment

Unit 4: THE THIRD & “FOURTH BRANCH”

- 4.01 – US Court System
- 4.02 – Landmark Supreme Court Cases
- 4.03 – The “Fourth Branch” of Government
- 4.04 – Review & Assessment

Unit 5: STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 5.01 – Who Represents Me? Federal & State
- 5.02 – Who Represents Me? Local & County
- 5.03 – Review & Assessment

Unit 6: WE THE PEOPLE!

- 6.01 – Elections & Voting Rights
- 6.02 – Civic Changemakers
- 6.03 – IAM: Inform, Act, Maintain
- 6.04 – IAM Project