

CIVICS – CHV 203

Course Description

What is Civics? Webster's Dictionary gives the following definition of the words **civics** (1886): *a social science dealing with the rights and duties of citizens.*

This course explains what your rights and duties as citizens of Canada, the country which the United Nations has deified as the best country in the world in which to live, year after year. The course also explores how democracy has evolved over the last three thousand years of human history. You will learn the meaning of democratic citizenship in local, provincial, federal, and global settings.

Strands

The three strands which are interwoven throughout the course are:

- The Informed Citizen
- The Purposeful Citizen
- The Active Citizen

Breakdown

The course is broken down into the following major units:

- Unit 1: Democracy: Issues and Ideas (3 weeks)
- Unit 2: Democracy: The Canadian Context (4 weeks)
- Unit 3: Democracy: Global Perspectives (3 weeks)

Evaluation

Evaluation in this course will follow a format with which you may not be familiar. Tests, written assignments, group and individual presentations, homework, class participation, and a journal are used as a basis for determining marks. These methods of valuation will be subdivided to correspond to the categories shown below:

Knowledge/Content	20%
Thinking/Inquiry	20%
Communication	15%
Application	15%
	70% of the Final Mark
Culminating Activity	30% of the Final Mark
Total	100%
Level One	(50-59)
Level Two	(60-69)
Level Three	(70-79)
Level Four	(80-89)
Level Five	(90-99)

Textbook: Civics: Participating in a Democratic Society
McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Toronto, 2000

Classroom Expectations

1. Come prepared for class. This means having your notebook, text and pen with you.
2. Due to problems with rodents and small (or not too small) insects, food is not to be consumed in class.
3. Please do not bring pop to class either. Water is OK.
4. Chewing gum is fine but let's keep it to a personal experience.
5. Cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices will not be brought to class. Calculators (though why you would need one History is beyond me) and pacemakers are fine.
6. Class starts at 8:50 in the morning 8:51 is still late.
7. No hats!
8. No coats!
9. Racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory comments will not be tolerated.
10. If you are away it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and make up any missed assignments.
11. If you are legitimately away the day of a test it is your responsibility to arrange a retest. If you skip the day of a test you will receive 0.
12. Major assignments will be given a 'last chance' date. . Once I have begun the return of marked assignments I will not accept any others.
13. Plagiarism is the use of other people's ideas and words and passing them off as your own. It will not be tolerated. Any assignment which has been plagiarized will receive a 0. You may, if the situation warrants, be referred to the office for further action. Changing every third word (or thereabouts) does not avoid plagiarism.
14. The teacher's bad math skills aside, if you challenge the mark on any assignment or test the entire work is subject to remarking.
15. Group projects are just that: 'group' projects. Everyone is expected to do their share. If someone in your group is not pulling their weight tell me before the assignment is due.
16. Participate!!!!!!