**Honors Civics & Economics, 2014-2015**

Sigurd Arnesen,Yvette Cerbone, Dawn Patterson, Maggie Smith, and Lance Shinn

1. Honors Civics & Economics is a semester length Core course for 10th grade students. The curriculum covers the principles of American democracy, legal structure of the United States and principle of economics. Students should have completed World History in their 9th grade year in preparation for this course.
	1. Students grades are calculated on a 5.0 scale
	2. Students are required midterm, final and state made examination
	3. The honors level course requires more independent reading and argumentative writing than the standard level. Additionally, students are required to complete one independent out-of-class project per quarter.
2. The purpose of this course is to teach students the knowledge and skills necessary to become an informed and active citizen. As both a citizen and consumer, students need to understand the historical traditions of democracy, our Constitution as the written foundation of our nation’s laws and system of government, and the governing principles of the free market system and other economic systems throughout the globe. This course is a graduation requirement and will require students to be an active learner every day.

III. Course Materials

• Texts: Remy, Richard. Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics and You. Glencoe

• Financial Fitness for Life. National Council for Economic Education

• Online: Teacher websites

1. Course Outline:
2. Colonial History (Foundations of American Government) *Weeks 1-3*
	1. Founding of the British Colonies of North America
		1. Purposes
		2. Geography & Economies
	2. Historical traditions of Law
		1. Mayflower Compact
		2. Virginia House of Burgesses
	3. Enlightenment thought
		1. Leaders & Philosophy; Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu
		2. English Bill of Rights, 1689
	4. Independence Movement
		1. Taxation & Protest
		2. Sons of Liberty; Common Sense
	5. Revolution
		1. Leaders; T. Jefferson, John Adams, G. Washington, B. Franklin
		2. Declaration of Independence

**Assignments:**

* + **Thirteen colonies map: Geography & Economy**
	+ **Colonial Brochure Project**
	+ **Interactive Declaration of Independence project**

**Test: I**

1. Early U.S. History and Principles of Democracy (Structure of American Government) *Weeks 4 -5*
	1. Articles of Confederation; Shays’ Rebellion
	2. Constitutional Convention
		1. VA plan, NJ plan; CT Compromise
		2. 3/5 Compromise
	3. Federalist/ Anti-Federalist debate
		1. Leaders; James Madison; Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, George Washington
		2. Principles &Writings; Federalist papers
		3. Ratification
	4. Principles of American Democracy
		1. Rule of Law, Self-Government, Due Process, Limited Government, Rights; Separation of Powers (Checks & Balances)
	5. Separation of Powers (Three branches)

**Assignments:**

* + **W1 Essay: Federalist & Anti-federalist of the 21st Century**
	+ **Film Critique: More Perfect Union**

**Test: II**

1. Constitution (Functions of American Government) *Weeks 6 - 8*
	1. Articles
	2. Powers/Checks and balances
	3. How a bill becomes a law
	4. Amendments
	5. 14th Amendment focus w/Cases (Plessy & Brown)

**Assignments:**

* + **27 Amendment Project**
	+ **Dissecting the Constitution**
	+ **Illustrated Constitution**

**Test III**

1. The Individual’s Role in American Government (American Identity and What it Means to be a Citizen) *Week 9 - 10*
	1. Citizenship
	2. Civic Duties and Responsibilities
	3. Modern Political Issues (Performance Assignment: Argumentative Essay)
		1. Snowden, NSA, Guantanamo, Stand your ground laws, etc.
	4. Planks and Platforms
	5. Elections
	6. Propaganda

**Assignments:**

* + **Modern Issues Argumentative Essay**
	+ **Campaign 2014: Current event analysis**

**Test: IV**

1. Law (Criminal Justice and the American Legal System)  *Week 10 - 11*
	1. History of Law
	2. Types of Law
	3. Enforcement of Law
	4. Jurisprudence –Due Process
	5. Courts – Federal only
		1. Supreme Court
		2. Circuit Courts
		3. District Courts

**Assignments:**

* Supreme Court Case Webquest
* Film Critique: ‘Gideon’s Trumpet’
* Analyzing NC & US Jurisprudence: Rae Carruth

**Test: V**

1. Personal Financial Literacy (How to Spend My Money) *Week 12*
	1. Financial Fitness for Life (workbook activities)
	2. EverFi (on-line module)

**Assignments:**

* + **Individual Banking Skills: Checking & Savings**
	+ **Budget Project**

**Test: VI**

1. Economics: Principles of a Market Economy (Micro Economics) *Week 13 - 14*
	1. Supply & Demand
		1. Equilibrium
		2. Price floor/price ceiling
		3. Compliments & substitutes
	2. Factors of production
	3. Property Rights
		1. Copy right, patent, monopolies
	4. Marginal Return & marginal utility
	5. Circular Flow of Economic Activity

**Assignments:**

* + **Performance Task: Market in Wheat**
	+ **Performance Task: Circular Flow of Economic Activity**
	+ **Entrepreneurship: Create your own business**

**Test: VII**

1. Economics: Government Intervention in the Economy (Macro Economics) *Week 15 -16*
	1. Economic Theorists
		1. Adam Smith
		2. Karl Marx
	2. Types of Economies
		1. Mixed (Socialist)
		2. Centrally planned (Communist)
	3. Federal Budget &Measuring economic activity
		1. Fiscal policy
		2. GDP
		3. CPI
	4. Government Intervention in the Economy
		1. Regulation
			1. Regulatory Agencies
			2. Labor Unions
		2. Business Cycle
			1. Employment
			2. Expansion & Contraction (trough & peak)
		3. Taxation

**Assignments:**

* + **Labor Union Activity: Arbitration, Mediation and Compromise, Oh My!**
	+ **Balance the Federal Budget Simulation**
	+ **1040EZ: Paying your taxes**

**Test: VIII**

1. Economics: Monetary Policy, Banking and Trade (Money) *Week 16 -17*
	1. Money
	2. Federal Reserve System
	3. International Trade

**Assignments:**

* + Inside the Fed: The True Story of the Federal Reserve
	+ Socialism Monopoly
	+ Why Trade Matters Simulation: Developing vs. the Industrialized World

**Test: IX**

1. North Carolina: Government & Economy (State and Local Government) *Week 18*
	1. State government
		1. Three branches
		2. Constitution
		3. Courts
		4. Budgets
	2. Local government
		1. Local officials
		2. Annexation, zoning
	3. NC Economy

**Assignments:**

* + **NC Courts Webquest**
	+ **Analyzing Data: Old & New Industries of North Carolina**

**Test: X**

1. Assessment
	1. Student Work load: On a nightly basis students should expect to spend 30 minutes reviewing notes & completing assignments
	2. Students will receive an initial zero for an assessment or assignment they made no effort or which is missing.
	3. If students are missing school work due to absences, the student must initiate contact with the teacher within 10 days to arrange a schedule for making up work. If the student missed a due date due to an unexcused absence, they may be given less credit.
	4. Late Policy: There will be a 10% deduction per day for late assignments with a maximum penalty of 50%. After five days, students will be expected to complete an alternative assignment to receive 50% credit.
	5. Grading Policy:
		1. **Formal Assessments** (70% of overall grade): Tests, quizzes and major cumulative projects.
		2. **Informal Assessments** (30% of overall grade): Homework, classwork and minor projects.
	6. Cumulative Quiz points should not be more than half the cumulative test points (ie more than 1/3 of the total 70%).
	7. If a student receives an 84% or below on a test they may request a retest with the following requirements:
		1. Student must attend two tutoring sessions within 10 school days of receiving his or her test score back outside of school time. A form will be available on the teacher’s website to assist students with this process.
		2. Student will take the retest outside of school time. The test will be a writing assessment (short answer and essay) that is different from the initial test.
		3. The retest score will replace the previous test score with a maximum of 84%.