



Civics at Deerstream

This course is a study of the origins, development, structure, and functions of the American national government. Topics include the purpose of government; the foundations of American government; federalism; the three branches of government, including the bureaucracy; the tradition of civil rights and liberties; political participation and behavior; policy formation; and foreign relations. Upon completion, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and participatory processes of the American political system. Basic concepts of North Carolina state and local governments and their relationships with the federal government are also examined. The course will not be partisan in nature; rather, students will be encouraged to employ historical study, critical thinking, and political analysis to become more educated and thoughtful citizens. They'll begin the journey of considering how their faith impacts their participation in the public square. As with all our upper-level classes, students in this for-credit high school course are responsible to read, study, and write between class sessions. In class, they'll synthesize information through lecture, interactive group projects and class discussions.

Curriculum: MacGruder's *American Government*; primary source documents; other selected resources

Schedule: Civics will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:15 AM-12:15 PM at the Chapel Hill Bible Church from September 14-May 9 (minus scheduled breaks) for lecture, discussion, group projects, and primary document exploration.

Attendance and Pacing: Each class will cover a large amount of material, so attendance is crucial for student success. Barring exceptional circumstances, students who miss 5 or more sessions over the course of the year will not be assigned a final grade. Students who miss class are expected to make up missed work.

Student Expectations: Civics is a high school level class, and students must be able to function with maturity in their academics as well as in organization, class participation, and work completion. In class, they will be expected to attend carefully to instruction, participate actively, and take notes as needed. Students are expected to complete 4-5 hours of work at home throughout the week. They will be responsible to come to class prepared with background knowledge and completed work as assigned.

Honors Option: Students have the option to take this course as an honors course. This will involve additional and/or different assignments that require students to delve deeper into the material.

Parent Expectations: Parents agree to provide supervision as needed throughout the course. Some students will require more assistance than others. If needed, parents should be prepared to begin the year with a high level of involvement that may decrease as the year progresses.

Prerequisites and Placement: Students must be 14 by August 31 to enroll in this course. Civics students should be reading and writing at a 9th grade level or higher or parents must arrange for appropriate accommodations. Students are expected to maintain an organized notebook and keep track of assignments.

Grades and High School Credit: Civics is a one credit high school level class, so formal assessments will be conducted and students will receive grades that take into account homework, classwork, projects, quizzes, and tests.

Instructor: *Kathryn Eriksen received her BA in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Masters in Education from Wake Forest University. She taught in the Chapel Hill public school system for 7 years as a high school history teacher, and was awarded the district Teacher of the Year in 2010. She then served as the Children's Ministry Director at Christ Community Church for 7 years. As an experienced teacher and leader, she loves helping students more completely understand the world around them by exploring the past. Watching students grow in their ability to think critically and express their own opinions about world events brings her great joy. She is married to the wonderful Rusty Eriksen and they have four fantastic kids. She loves reading, her Peloton, and walks on the beach.*