

# CIVICS

## 2023/2024 Syllabus

### Homework

Students are expected to stay current on chapter reading assignments, Section Quizzes, Student Activity assignments. Homework assignments are due the day they take the chapter test in class.

- Homework should be completed with minimal parental input.
- Student Activities are available on Canvas as pdf files.
- Section Quizzes/Reviews are in the textbook – please type or handwrite answers to turn in.

### Testing

There are 18 tests in the BJU curriculum, but no mid-term or final test. Tests consist of multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and 1-3 essay questions. Students should be able to complete tests in 30-40 minutes. **REMEMBER:** All of the items in **RED** on the PowerPoint slides will appear on the tests *but they are not the ONLY things on the test!* Also, I will give you the essay questions in advance so you should be able to do well on those IF you study!

### Grades

- 18 Chapter Tests = 70% of the final grade
- Section Quizzes & Student Activities = 20% of the final grade
- Class Participation = 10% of the final grade

I usually give 3-5 extra-credit assignments throughout the school year. Some examples are:

- Watch and critique a political debate
- Watch and critique the President's State of the Union speech
- Watch and critique a political movie (your choice, age appropriate)
- Attend a LOVE LIFE prayer walk (with the class) at a local abortion clinic

(or one near your home).

I usually give anywhere from 10-20 extra-credit points per opportunity which get added to the overall test scores.

**Textbook:** American Government for Christian Schools (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) by Tim Keese, BJU Press, Greenville SC.

## Detailed Class Schedule

### **Week of 8/14** Chapter 1: The Only Sure Foundation

#### Homework due before class:

- ✓ Read chapter 1

#### Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 1 Section Quizzes
- ✓ Student Activity: “Paul’s Example”
- ✓ Study for test!
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 2
- ✓ Pray for our leaders: Federal (visit [www.prayltim2.org](http://www.prayltim2.org) and SIGN-UP)
- ✓ EXTRA\_CREDIT: Sign up for the prayer emails and forward the first one you get to me! You will earn +10 points!

### **Week of 8/21** Chapter 2: Forms of Government (part 1)

#### TEST: Chapter 1

- ✓ Taken at the beginning of class
- ✓ Collect Ch. 1 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

#### Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of chapter 2
- ✓ Work on Chapter 2 Section Quizzes

- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Systems of Government”
- ✓ Pray for our leaders: State

## **Week of 8/28** Chapter 2: Forms of Government (part 2)

### Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Study for test!
- ✓ Complete Ch. 2 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 3
- ✓ Pray for leaders: Local

## **Week of 9/4** Chapter 3: Christian Beginnings in America (part 1)

*Special Note: I lecture and teach this chapter using the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the textbook, which I believe does a much better job of unpacking our Christian heritage in America as well as its influence on the overall direction of the nation’s founding. That being said, I strongly recommend that you use both my lecture (the previous edition) as well as the Chapter 3 material in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. This information is so critical that we all need more of it not less. The test will be based on the lecture, only.*

### TEST: Chapter 2

- ✓ Taken at the beginning of class
- ✓ Collect Ch. 2 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

### Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of chapter 3
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Wall of Separation”
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

## **Week of 9/11** Chapter 3: Christian Beginnings in America (Part 2)

### Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Study for test!
- ✓ Complete Ch. 3 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 4
- ✓ Pray for our leaders: State

**Week of 9/18 Chapter 4: Constitutional Beginnings (Part 1)**

TEST: Chapter 3

- ✓ Taken at the beginning of class
- ✓ Collect chapter 3 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of chapter 4
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “The Role of States”
- ✓ Pray for our leaders: Local

**Week of 9/25 Chapter 4: Constitutional Beginnings (Part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Study for test!
- ✓ Complete Ch. 4 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 5
- ✓ Pray for our leaders: Federal

**Week of 10/2 Chapter 5: The Constitutional Cornerstone (part 1)**

TEST: Chapter 4

- ✓ Taken at the beginning of class
- ✓ Collect Chapter 4 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading chapter 5
- ✓ Work on Ch. 5 Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “The General Welfare”

- ✓ Pray for:

**Week of 10/9 Chapter 5: The Constitutional Cornerstone (part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Study for test!
- ✓ Complete Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 6
- ✓ Pray for:

**Week of 10/16 FALL BREAK**

**Week of 10/23 Chapter 6: Federalism**

TEST: Chapter 5

- ✓ Taken at the beginning of class
- ✓ Collect Chapter 5 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of chapter 6
- ✓ Complete Section Quizzes & Student Activity: “Federalism’s Development”
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 7
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: State

**Week of 10/30 Chapter 7: State and Local Government (part 1)**

TEST: Chapter 6

- ✓ Taken at home previously
- ✓ Collect Ch. 6 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 7
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Leviathan”

- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week of 11/6 Chapter 7: State and Local Government (part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 7 Test – Open Book
- ✓ Complete Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 8
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week of 11/13 Chapter 8: The Structure of Congress (part 1)**

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 7 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 8
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Your Rep’s/Senator’s Committee Assignments”
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: State

**Week of 11/20 THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week of 11/27 Chapter 8: The Structure of Congress (part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 8 Test – Open Book
- ✓ Ch. 8 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 9
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week of 12/4 Chapter 9: The Power of Congress (part 1)**

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 8 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework Due Next Week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 9
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Destructive Dependence”
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week of 12/11 Chapter 9: The Power of Congress (part 2)**

Homework due AFTER Christmas Break:

- ✓ Ch. 9 Test – Open Book
- ✓ Sections Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 10
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: State

**Week of 12/18 CHRISTMAS BREAK!!!**

**Week of 1/8 Chapter 10: The Presidency – Road to the White House (part 1)**

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 9 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 10
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Presidential Qualifications & Qualities”
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week of 1/15 Chapter 10: The Presidency – Road to the White House (part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 10 Test (Open Book), Section Quizzes, Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 11
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week of 1/22** Chapter 11: America's Highest Office

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 10 Test, Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 11 Test (Open Book), Section Quizzes, Activity
- ✓ Start reading Ch. 12
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: State

**Week of 1/29** Chapter 12: The Federal Bureaucracy (part 1)

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 11 test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading Ch. 12
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: "The Cabinet"
- ✓ Pray for Primary Elections!

**Week of 2/5** Chapter 12: The Federal Bureaucracy (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 12 Test (Open Book), Section Quizzes, Student Activity



- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 13
- ✓ Pray for Primary Elections!

**Week of 2/12**    **Chapter 13: Foreign Policy (part 1)**

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 12 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 13
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Global Interventionism”
- ✓ Pray for Primary Elections!

**Week of 2/19**    **Chapter 13: Foreign Policy (part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 13 Test – Open Book
- ✓ Complete Ch. 13 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 14
- ✓ Pray for Elections!

**Week of 2/26**    **Chapter 14: The Judiciary (part 1)**

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 13 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 14
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Criteria for Supreme Court Justices”
- ✓ Pray for Primary Elections!

**Week of 3/4**     **SPRING BREAK**

**Week of 3/11**     **Chapter 14: The Judiciary (part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 14 Test - Open Book
- ✓ Complete Ch. 14 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 15
- ✓ Pray for Elections!

**Week of 3/18**     **Chapter 15: Civil Rights and Responsibilities (part 1)**

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 15 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework Due Next Week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 15
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: "Separation of Church and State"
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week of 3/25**     **Chapter 15: Civil Rights and Responsibilities (part 2)**

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 15 Test - Open Book
- ✓ Complete Ch. 15 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 16
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week of 4/1**     **Chapter 16: The Party System (part 1)**

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 15 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 16
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Washington’s Farewell Address”
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: State

**Week of 4/8** Chapter 16: The Party System (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 16 Test - Open Book
- ✓ Complete Ch. 16 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 17
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week of 4/15** Chapter 17: Campaigns & Elections (part 1)

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 16 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 17
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “The Role of New Media in Political Campaigning”
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week of 4/22** Chapter 17: Campaign & Elections (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 17 Test – Open Book
- ✓ Complete Ch. 17 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading Ch. 18
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: State

**Week of 4/29** Chapter 18: Public Policy & Politics (part 1)

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 17 Test, Section Quizzes, Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of Ch. 18
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: “Mass Media Cartoon”
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week of 5/6** Chapter 18: Public Policy & Politics (part 2)

Test: Chapter 18

- ✓ Taken together in class
- ✓ Collect Ch. 18 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Final Discussion

- ✓ What were some course highlights?
- ✓ How do you feel about your role as a Christian living in America?
- ✓ What do you think you should do with what you have learned?
- ✓ Final conversation about the presidential election!
- ✓ Close in prayer over these points and be sure to pray for our elected officials!