

CIVICS **2024/2025 Syllabus**

Homework

Students are expected to stay current on chapter reading assignments, Section Quizzes, Student Activity assignments, and chapter tests.

- 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.
- Tests are available on Canvas as pdf files.

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. All tests are taken AT HOME and are OPEN BOOK! I'm not a big fan of rote memorization...I want my students PROCESSING and THINKING through the material...not cramming for tests.

ONLINE STUDENTS: Assignments are due the same week as the in-person classes, preferably by Friday afternoon! You will submit all your work to my Google Drive for Civics:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15AtxfGmpVO1Bpm-slQLq1o046siwEcXR?usp=sharing>

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, so you better SPEAK UP! ☺

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 (**3rd or 4th Edition**) by Tim Keese, BJU Press, Greenville SC.

Detailed Class Schedule

Week of 8/12 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”
- ✓ Ch. 1 TEST!
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 2
- ✓ Pray for our leaders: Federal (visit www.pray1tim2.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 8/19 Chapter 2: Forms of Government (part 1)

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 1 Section Quizzes, Student Activity, and Test.
- ✓ ONLINE STUDENTS – Submit all work via my Google Drive.

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 8/26 Chapter 2: Forms of Government (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Ch. 2 Test
- ✓ Ch. 2 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 3
- ✓ Pray for leaders: Local

Week of 9/2 Chapter 3: Christian Beginnings in America (part 1)

Special Note: I lecture and teach this chapter using the 2nd 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 3rd or 4th Edition. This information is so critical that we all need more of it...not less. NO TEST FOR THIS CHAPTER!!!

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 2 Section Quizzes, Student Activity, and Test.

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete reading of chapter 3 in your edition of the text.
- ✓ Work on Section Quizzes (in your text)
- ✓ Work on Student Activity: "Wall of Separation"
- ✓ Pray for Leaders: Federal

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

Homework due NEXT week:

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

Week of 9/16 Chapter 4: Constitutional Beginnings (Part 1)

In Class:

- ✓ Collect chapter 3 Section Quizzes & Student Activity (NO TEST)

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 9/23 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 9/30 Chapter 5: The Constitutional Cornerstone (part 1)

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Chapter 4 Section Quizzes, Student Activity, and Test.

Homework due NEXT week:

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

Week of 10/7 Chapter 5: The Constitutional Cornerstone (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

- ✓ Complete Section Quizzes, Student Activity, and Test.
- ✓ Begin reading chapter 6
- ✓ Pray for: Election

Week of 10/14 Chapter 6: Federalism

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Chapter 5 Section Quizzes, Student Activity, and Test.

Homework due AFTER Fall Break:

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

Week of 10/21 FALL BREAK!!!

Week of 10/28 Chapter 7: State and Local Government (part 1)

In Class:

- ✓ Collect Ch. 6 Section Quizzes, Student Activity, and Test.

Homework due NEXT week:

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

Week of 11/4 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: Election Results KNOWN QUICKLY!

Week of 11/11 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 Election: The Winners and Peaceful Transitions

Week of 11/18 Chapter 8: The Structure of Congress (part 2)

Homework due AFTER Thanksgiving Break:

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

Week of 11/25 THANKSGIVING BREAK!!!

Week of 12/2 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 12/9 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 12/16 CHRISTMAS BREAK!!!

Week of 1/6 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 1/13 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 1/20 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 1/27 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 2/3 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 2/10 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 2/17 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 2/24 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 3/3 SPRING BREAK

Week of 3/10 **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 3/17 **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 3/24 **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 3/31 **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 4/7 **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 4/14 **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 4/21 **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 4/28 **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 5/5 **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 new Political Season (state & federal).
- ✓ Close in prayer over these points and be sure to pray for our elected officials!