

7th Grade Civics

HIS0700

Course Description

This 7th-grade Civics course explores the many aspects of America's government and economy. Lessons cover fundamental values and principles, rights, responsibilities, limits, founding documents, biblical foundations of the U.S. government and economy, and the roles of the branches of government. This course introduces students to state government, political parties, and economics. Topics in this course will enable students to learn about their government so that they can be equipped with the tools they need to be informed and engaged citizens.

Rationale

The 7th-grade Civics course offers students an examination of the biblical foundations of the United States, different types of government, the three branches of the U.S. government, the role of the state governments, citizenship, and economics. As students study the history of the founding documents, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, they will have a deeper understanding of why America looks and functions as it does today. The study of political parties, voting, and citizenship will teach students how to be engaged citizens in their communities.

Prerequisite

None

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- A. The student will develop the social studies skills responsible citizenship requires.
- B. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of American constitutional government.
- C. The student will demonstrate knowledge of citizenship and the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens.
- D. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government.
- E. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the American constitutional government at the national, state, and local level.
- F. The student will demonstrate knowledge of how public policy is made at the local, state, and national levels of government.

- G. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the judicial systems established by the Constitution of the United States.
- H. The student will demonstrate knowledge of how economic decisions are made in the marketplace.
- I. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the structure and operation of the United States economy.
- J. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the role of government in the United States economy.

Course Materials

See LUOA’s [Systems Requirements](#) for computer specifications necessary to operate LUOA curriculum. Also view [Digital Literacy Requirements](#) for LUOA’s expectation of users’ digital literacy.

- Note: Embedded YouTube videos may be utilized to supplement LUOA curriculum. YouTube videos are the property of the respective content creator, licensed to YouTube for distribution and user access. As a non-profit educational institution, LUOA is able to use YouTube video content under the YouTube Terms of Service. For additional information on copyright, please contact the [Jerry Falwell Library](#).

Course Grading Policies

The student’s grades will be determined according to the following grading scale and assignment weights. The final letter grade for the course is determined by a 10-point scale. Assignments are weighted according to a tier system, which can be referenced on the Grades Page in Canvas. Each tier is weighted according to the table below. Items that do not affect the student’s grade are found in Tier 0.

Grading Scale		Assignment Weights	
A	90-100%	Tier 0	0%
B	80-89%	Tier 1	25%
C	70-79%	Tier 2	35%
D	60-69%	Tier 3	40%
F	0-59%		

In order for students to receive credit for a course, the following conditions have to be met:

1. All semester exams and module tests have to be completed,
2. All Tier 3 projects or papers have to be completed, and
3. Fewer than 10 zeros exist in the gradebook for blank submissions in a full credit course and 5 zeros for blank submissions in a semester course.

Course Policies

Students are accountable for *all* information in the Student Handbook. Below are a few policies that have been highlighted from the Student Handbook.

Types of Assessments

To simplify and clearly identify which policies apply to which assessment, each assessment has been categorized into one of four categories: Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test. Each applicable item on the course Modules page has been designated with an identifier chosen from among these categories. Thus, a Quiz on the American Revolution may be designated by the title, “1.2.W Quiz: The American Revolution.” These identifiers were placed on the Modules page to help students understand which Honor Code and Resubmission policies apply to that assessment (see the Honor Code and Resubmission policies on the pages that follow for further details).

- **Lesson:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Lesson”*
These include instructional content and sometimes an assessment of that content. Typically, a Lesson will be the day-to-day work that a student completes.
- **Assignment:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as an “Assignment”*
Typical examples of Assignments include, but are not limited to, papers, book reports, projects, labs, and speeches. Assignments are usually something that the student should do his or her best work on the first time.
- **Quiz:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Quiz”*
This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Quizzes cover a smaller amount of material than Tests.
- **Test:** *Any item on the Modules page designated as a “Test”*
This usually takes the form of a traditional assessment where the student will answer questions to demonstrate knowledge of the subject. Tests cover a larger amount of material than Quizzes.

Resubmission Policy

Students are expected to submit their best work on the first submission for every Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, and Test. However, resubmissions may be permitted in the following circumstances:

- **Lesson:** Students are automatically permitted two attempts on a Lesson. Students may freely resubmit for their first two attempts without the need for teacher approval.
- **Assignment:** Students should do their best work the first time on all Assignments. However, any resubmissions must be completed before the student moves more than one module ahead of that Assignment. For example, a student may resubmit an Assignment from Module 3 while in Module 4, but not an Assignment from Modules 1 or 2. High School students may not resubmit an Assignment without expressed written permission from the teacher in a comment.
- **Quiz:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.
- **Test:** Students may NOT resubmit for an increased grade.

If a student feels that he or she deserves a resubmission on a Lesson, Assignment, Quiz, or Test due to a technical issue such as a computer malfunction, the student should message his

or her teacher to make the request, and that request will need to be approved by a Department Chair.

Consequences for Violations to the Honor Code

Every time a student violates the Honor Code, the teacher will submit an Honor Code Incident Report. The Student Support Coordinator will review the incident and allocate the appropriate consequences. Consequences, which are determined by the number of student offenses, are outlined below:

- **Warning:** This ONLY applies to high school Lessons and elementary/middle school Assignments and Lessons. Students should view these actions as learning opportunities.
 - **Lessons:** A zero will be assigned for the question only.
 - **Elementary/Middle School Assignment:** The student must redo his or her work; however, the student may retain his or her original grade.
- **1st Offense:**
 - **Lesson, Quiz, or Test:** The student will receive a 0% on the entire assessment.
 - **Assignment:** The student will either:
 - Receive a 0% on the original assignment
 - Complete the Plagiarism Workshop
 - Retry the assignment for a maximum grade of 80%
- **2nd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and be placed on academic probation.
- **3rd Offense:** The student will receive a 0% and the Faculty Chair will determine the consequences that should follow, possibly including withdrawal from the course or expulsion from the academy.

Scope and Sequence

7th Grade Civics

Topic 1: Foundations of American Constitutional Government

- Fundamental Principles of American Constitutional Government
- Foundational Documents to the American Constitutional System
- The Purpose of the Constitution
- Changing the Constitution

Topic 2 Citizenship

- What Is a Citizen?
- A Citizen's Rights
- A Citizen's Responsibilities
- The Character of a Citizen

Topic 3: The Political Process

- Functions of Political Parties
- American Political Parties
- Political Campaigns
- Campaign Finance
- Voting Rights & Participation
- The Electoral College

Topic 4: The Constitution of the United States

- Preamble and Article I
- Article II
- Article III
- Article IV
- Articles V-VII

Topic 5: National Government

- Structure & Powers of the National Government
- Separation of Powers
- The Lawmaking Process
- The Executive Branch

Topic 6: State Government

- Structure & Powers of the State Governments
- States in the Federal System
- The Lawmaking Process
- The Executive Branch

Topic 7: Local Government

- Structure & Powers of the Local Government

Topic 8: The Judicial System

- State and Federal Courts
- Judicial Review
- Civil and Criminal Cases
- Judicial Protection

Topic 9: Public Policy

- The Media & Public Policy
- Interest Groups & Public Policy
- National & International Events & Public Policy

Topic 10: Adam Smith & the *Wealth of Nations*

- Book 1, Chapter 1
- Book 1, Chapter 2

Topic 11: Intro to Economics & the American Economy

- Scarcity and Choice
- Economic Systems
- Characteristics of the US Economy
- Supply & Demand
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Economic Flow
- Financial Institutions
- The Global Economy

Topic 12: The Government & the Economy

- Competition in the Market
- Public Goods & Services
- Taxes & Government Spending
- The Federal Reserve System
- Government Protection
- Currency & Money

Topic 13: Personal Economy

- Informed Career Choices
- Human Capital
- Impact of Technological Change
- Financial Responsibility