

Nichols-Lawson Middle School
7th Grade Civics & Geography Syllabus
Mrs. Tina Fleaman
(fleamant@sylacauga.k12.al.us)

Course Description:

Students in this course will study both Civics and World Geography, which will be split up into two semesters. We will study Civics the first semester and Eastern Hemisphere Geography the second semester.

Civics is designed to provide students with basic knowledge and skills for functioning in modern American Society. The workings of the American government and the economy are also studied as students explore the importance of taking an active role as citizens of the United States of America. Application to the student's individual lives is stressed throughout the course as the students acquire information, apply it, and develop skills to cope with issues and problems in contemporary American society. The scope of Civics covered in the first semester includes: representative democracy, law, civic responsibility & duty, and economics.

Geography emphasizes students acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to develop a geographic perspective. By the end of this course, students should understand the fundamental physical and human patterns of the earth's surface, as well as the process that created these specific patterns. In this course, students learn how to apply a geographic perspective to the past, present, and future.

The content of these courses will include all of the relevant objectives outlined in the Alabama Social Studies Course of Study as well as the College & Career-Ready Standards.

Course Content Outline for Civics:

1. Foundation of American Citizenship
2. The National Government
3. Political Parties and Interest Groups
4. State and Local Governments
5. Individual Law and the Internet
6. The Economy and the Individual
7. The Free Enterprise System
8. The United States and the World

Course Content Outline for World Geography:

1. The Geographic Perspective and the World
2. Europe
3. North Africa and Southwest Asia
4. Africa south of the Sahara
5. Asia
6. Russia and the Eurasian Republics
7. Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica

Textbooks:

Students receive a Civics book at the beginning of school. This book is to stay at home. I have a class set the students may use during class. **In December, the Civics book will be taken up.** Upon returning to school after Christmas break, students will be issued a **Geography book** that **will need to be returned in May.** This book should also stay at home.

Book Titles:

Civics Today / *The World and Its People*

NLMS Grading Policy:

Your child's grade will be determined by the following breakdown:

- 50% - Summative Assessment (Tests for mastery / Mastery Projects)
- 40% - Formative Assessment (Quizzes, Graded daily mastery work, etc.)
- 10% - Homework

Please refer to the NLMS Student Handbook concerning grades for OSS and unexcused absences. (It is very important that a student bring an excuse for an absence within 3 days of being absent to insure the makeup work is counted in the grade book!)

Daily Requirements:

They are required to have a 3 ring binder that includes their agenda, pencils & paper, & their Civics/Geography composition notebook. (This binder should go to every class with each 7th grade student. It should go home every day and be brought back. It should have ALL things for ALL classes at ALL times! Students will be required to call home if they forget their binder and given a warning or Discipline Referral. The binder will need to be brought to them at school!)

Dress Code & Discipline:

Students will be required to adhere to the NLMS dress code on a daily basis. Discipline is covered in the “Code of Conduct” booklet you receive at the beginning of the year. The NLMS Student Handbook (located on the NLMS school website & in the student agenda) also states policies and procedures pertaining to discipline. Discipline is handled according to both of these documents. **All Detention Referral’s MUST be signed by a parent and returned the following day.**

The administration will take care of tardiness to school (for 1st Period) but students tardy to any other class will be given a warning/documentation in their agenda (to be signed by parent) for the first tardy without a teacher excuse. Upon the 2nd tardy (without a teacher excuse) the student will be given a detention referral (parent will be notified by email or phone of Detention Referral given).

Parent Conference:

Conferences made by parents should be done through the school office (256-245-4376.) I will contact you via phone or email (please mark your preference below) when there is a situation that we need to discuss or when I feel it is necessary for us to meet.

(Fill out, cut off, and return)

Student Name _____ Period / Civic & Geography

I have received and read the syllabus for **T. Fleaman’s 7th Grade Civics & Geography** class. My child and I understand what he/she will be studying and what is required daily. We also understand the guidelines for discipline and the grading policy.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mom Cell Phone # - _____

Dad Cell Phone # - _____

Parent e-mail: _____

I would like to be contacted by **phone / email.** (please circle your preference)

[My planning is at the end of the day so phone calls will be then or after school.
E-mail is checked throughout the day and tends to be much faster and easier.]