iCitizen

Syllabus

Welcome to Generation Joshua's iCitizen course! This is a **civics** course, not an American government course. As such, iCitizen is not as detailed or as focused on theory as a government course may be. Instead, the focus of iCitizen is on the practical knowledge that all citizens should have about how their government functions and affects them.

Upon completion of this course, your student will have a better understanding of the history, purpose, and structure of America's government, America's role abroad, basic economics, and many other important elements of civics and patriotism. Your student will know what it means to be an American citizen and will be equipped to be an engaged citizen on the local, state, and national levels of government. Additionally, your student will be well prepared to enroll in a high-school level American government course if desired.

Course Components

The iCitizen course is divided into 10 chapters that are meant to be completed in the order they are presented. Relevant excerpts of the Constitution are highlighted throughout the chapters to teach the basis of our government.

Each chapter is divided into several sections, concluding with review questions to test the student's comprehension of the material presented. These review questions are also valuable study aids to help students prepare for the end-of-chapter quiz. Students should answer the review questions using complete sentences and the supervising teacher should grade if desired—please do not send them to Generation Joshua. While there is not a separate answer key for instructors, all of the answers (with the exception of questions asking for the student's analysis or opinion) can be found in the text of the chapter.

There is also a separate appendix of the text's bolded terms for the convenience of the student and the instructor. Although most of the terms are defined within the text or can be gleaned by their use and context, we recommend that students have a dictionary available.

Essays

Every chapter concludes with three or four essay questions that are either descriptive or analytical. The essay sections are optional for the student-directed approach to this course (see the section on "Grading" in this syllabus). If you decide to incorporate the essays into your student's work, have the student pick one essay question from each chapter and write a one- or two-page essay on the topic.

We recommend that students use at least two outside sources for each written essay. These sources do not have to be directly quoted in the essay, but students should cite them using a footnote, endnote, or in-text citation when referring to each source and should list their sources at the end of the essay (in a "Works cited" or "References" section). If you are not already using a style guide, we recommend MLA, Turabian, or APA documentation as these are commonly used at the college level.

Essays should be graded by instructors—please do not send them to Generation Joshua. Elements to consider when grading essays are grammar, spelling, logical flow, and soundness of argument if it is an analytical essay, or historical accuracy if it is a descriptive historical essay. Students should not receive full credit for essays that do not use at least two sources, unless otherwise indicated in the essay question.

Quizzes and Tests

There is an online multiple choice/true-false quiz at the end of each chapter meant to assess retention of key concepts, people, and documents. Questions range between 10 and 20 questions per quiz. An online cumulative test at the end of the course evaluates how well the student assimilated and synthesized iCitizen's primary themes. The final test contains 40 multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions.

Generation Joshua's online system will grade the quizzes and the test upon submission so no instructor involvement is needed and the student receives grades back immediately. All quizzes and the test may be taken only once, so it is important that your student is well prepared.

Credits

As a 15-week, semester long course, iCitizen is designed to meet the requirements of one-half high school credit. We provide a schedule at the end of this syllabus that enables your student to complete this course in 15 weeks. However, students have 12 months from the date they register to complete the course.

If you want your student to earn one full high school credit (two semesters) incorporating the iCitizen material, consider having him or her take an additional half-credit in a related subject, such as economics, sociology, or geography. Another option is to add supplemental reading and writing assignments to the iCitizen material to create a full one-credit, two semester course. See Option 3: Instructor-Intensive in the "Grading" section for ideas on how to accomplish this.

Completion certificates are available for each course. If you wish to receive one, please email generationjoshua@hslda.org to request a certificate after completing this course.

Software Requirements

Most of Generation Joshua's courses require Adobe Reader to open PDF files. You can download the latest version for free at adobe.com/downloads. Also, since most iCitizen files open in a new window, you may need to disable your pop-up blocker for the Generation Joshua website (generationjoshua.org). You can do this by adding Generation Joshua as an exception to your pop-up blocker so that it allows pop-ups from generationjoshua.org.

Scripture

All scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Student Time Commitment

Below is the approximate number of hours it will take a student to complete each week's assignment. Please bear in mind that this is an estimate only. Parents are best qualified to assess the time required for their student to complete each task. Please adjust as needed.

Read assigned chapter or sections: 1–2 hours
Answer review questions: 30–45 minutes
Study for chapter quiz: 30–45 minutes
Chapter quiz: 15–30 minutes
Write chapter essay (optional): 2–4 hours (depends on length and amount of research)

If this course is being taken with a group, each student must be separately registered for the course in order to gain individual access to the online quizzes and tests.

Grading and Course Setup Options

There are three suggested approaches to the iCitizen course, depending on how much time the instructor wishes to invest. The grading is weighted differently according to each option.

Recommended grading scale:

90–100 points: A (Superior grasp of the material)
80–89 points: B (Good understanding the material)
70–79 points: C (Average/passing)
60–69 points: D (Unsatisfactory/consider retaking the course)
59 or below: F (Retake the course)

Option 1: Student-Directed

In the student-directed option, the instructor is advised to periodically check to see whether the student is on schedule. Outside of this, there is little instructor involvement in this option. Students complete review questions in preparation for quizzes, but as the questions are not being graded by the instructor, they are not counted toward the overall grade. The optional essays can be written at the instructor's discretion, but they are not reflected in the grading for this option.

Here is the suggested grading schematic for the student-directed option:

10 quizzes (computer-graded): 8 points per quiz (80% of overall grade)
1 test (computer-graded): 20 points (20% of overall grade)

Option 2: Instructor-Guided

This option requires weekly grading of review questions by the instructor so that the questions are counted toward the overall grade. For ease of grading, we suggest that review questions be graded for completeness, not correctness. The instructor should simply check to see if the student answered each question in the review box. Since the answers for the questions are all in the text, students should receive full credit if they have an answer for each question and no credit if they do not answer every question. The review questions are meant for quiz preparation. The quizzes, not the review questions, measure the student's comprehension for grading purposes.

If the instructor has the student complete the optional end-of-chapter essay, then the instructor may grade and count the essays as part of the overall grade as well.

Here is the suggested grading schematic for the instructor-guided option:

40 out of 45 Review question sets: half point per set (20% of overall grade)
10 essays: 2 points per essay (20% of overall grade)
10 quizzes: 5 points per quiz (50% of overall grade)
1 test: 10 points (10% of overall grade)

Option 3: Instructor-Intensive

The instructor-intensive option is best suited for instructors and students wanting to expand iCitizen into a full one-credit, two-semester course. It is completed in the same manner as the instructor-guided option, adding extra work as assigned by the instructor.

For this option, the instructor plans and assigns supplemental reading and writing exercises every other week alternating with the iCitizen assignments. For example, after completing Week 1 on the 15-week iCitizen schedule, the student could read excerpts of the Federalist and Antifederalist papers and write a two-to-three page analysis assigned by the instructor. This allows the iCitizen assignments to be spread out over two semesters.

Generation Joshua does not provide a reading schedule for this option—it is up to the instructor to determine and assign relevant outside reading and writing exercises. **Let the iCitizen text be your inspiration**. Examples of readings include excerpts from historical documents, biographies, modern works by historians or economists, and, where appropriate, novels or field trips to historical places. The "Supplemental Resources" section at the end of each chapter is a great place to start.

We suggest creating your own grading schematic for this two-semester option. Feel free to use the grading schematic for Option 2 as a guide.

See the next page for the suggested 15-week schedule.

Suggested 15-Week Schedule for Options 1 and 2

Week 1

- ☐ Read Chapter 1, Sections 1.1–1.2
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 1.1–1.2

Week 2

- ☐ Read Chapter 1, Sections 1.3–1.5
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 1.3–1.5
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 1 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 1 online

Week 3

- ☐ Read Chapter 2, Sections 2.1–2.2
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 2.1–2.2

Week 4

- ☐ Read Chapter 2, Sections 2.3–2.4
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 2.3–2.4
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 2 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 2 online

Week 5

- ☐ Read Chapter 3, Section 3.1–3.4
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 3.1–3.4
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 3 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 3 online

Week 6

- ☐ Read Chapter 4, Section 4.1–4.5
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 4.1–4.5
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 4 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 4 online

Week 7

- ☐ Read Chapter 5, Section 5.1–5.4
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 5.1–5.4
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 5 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 5 online

Week 8

- ☐ Read Chapter 6, Section 6.1–6.3
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 6.1–6.3
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 6 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 6 online

Week 9

- ☐ Read Chapter 7, Section 7.1–7.3
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 7.1–7.3
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 7 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 7 online

Week 10

- ☐ Read Chapter 8, Section 8.1–8.3
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 8.1–8.3

Suggested 15 Week Schedule for Options 1 and 2, cont.

Week 11

- ☐ Read Chapter 8, Section 8.4–8.5
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 8.4–8.5
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 8 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 8 online

Week 12

- ☐ Read Chapter 9, Section 9.1–9.3
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 9.1–9.3

Week 13

- ☐ Read Chapter 9, Section 9.4–9.6
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 9.4–9.6
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 9 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 9 online

Week 14

- ☐ Read Chapter 10, Section 10.1–10.6
- ☐ Answer review questions for Sections 10.1–10.6
- ☐ Write essay (optional)
- ☐ Study Chapter 10 for quiz
- ☐ Take Quiz 10 online

Week 15

- ☐ Study Chapters 1–10
- ☐ Take end-of-course test