**Economics & Government Course Syllabus**

Micah Rust

**Course Readings**:

*Collapse*, Jared Diamond

*Little Brother*, Cory Doctorow

*Worth Fighting For*, Rory Fanning

*Days of Destruction*, *Days of Revolt*, Chris Hedges & Joe Sacco

*America The Farewell Tour*, Chris Hedges

*As the World Burns*, Derek Jensen & Stephanie McMillan

*Race to Incarcerate*, Sabrina Jones & Marc Mauer

*The Shock Doctrine*, Naomi Klein

*Meme Wars*, Kalle Lassn

*Trees on Mars*, Hal Niedzviecki

*Confessions of an Economic Hitman,* John Perkins

**Grading Procedure**

1/3 Attendance & Participation

1/3 Presentations

1/3 Essays & Writing Prompts

**Microsoft Teams:**

Throughout the year, all assignments and corresponding unit materials will be published on Microsoft Teams. Students will submit essays via Microsoft Teams or directly with me via my school email [mrust@fillmorecsd.org](mailto:mrust@fillmorecsd.org). This will enable us to move along with the curriculum seamlessly should traditional school be interrupted.

Dear FCS Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of my media selections for *Participation in* *Government* and *Economics*. Throughout the courses, I may be using the following productions. If you have any questions regarding any of the following, please feel free to give me a call or send me an email. Each media selection is accompanied by a brief description, the relevant course themes, and specific core curriculum components. A typical lesson plan, involving media, consists of 15 to 20 minutes of direct instruction, 15 to 20 minutes of media, and analysis of supportive texts. You can reach me via email [mrust@fillmorecsd.org](mailto:mrust@fillmorecsd.org) / phone 585-567-2251.

Sincerely,

Micah Rust

**Citizenfour (R)**

1. 2014’s Academy Award winning documentary CITIZENFOUR is a real life international thriller that unfolds by the minute. With unprecedented access, this gripping behind-the-scenes chronicle follows award winning director Laura Poitras (My Country, My Country) and journalist Glenn Greenwald’s remarkable encounters with whistle-blower Edward Snowden in a hotel room in Hong Kong, as he hands over classified documents that provide evidence of mass indiscriminate and illegal invasions of privacy by the National Security Agency (NSA). The documentary not only shows the dangers of governmental surveillance, but makes audiences feel them. After seeing the film, viewers will never think the same way about their phone, e-mail, credit cards, web browser or digital footprint again.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘The study of civics, citizenship, and government involves learning about political systems; the purposes of government and civic life; and the differing assumptions held by people across time and place regarding power, authority, governance, and law. (Adapted from The National Standards for Civics and Government, 1994)’

**Clandestine Childhood (NR)**

1. After years of exile, 12-year-old Juan and his rebel family move back to Argentina under false identities to overthrow the Junta. Now he must balance growing up with his family's dangerous lifestyle.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. Key Idea #1: Comparative and International Perspectives. Key Idea 1 uses comparative and philosophical thinking to explore how other political cultures perceive public issues. Here is another good opportunity for a discussion of major values perspectives and philosophical differences. Students should be able to distinguish between public policy stances in authoritarian versus nonauthoritarian regimes, statist systems (i.e., heavily bureaucratic, government-centered) versus individualistic systems (i.e., individual-centered, market-driven), and modern cultures (legalistic, rationalistic) versus traditionalistic cultures (traditional, family-based).

**The Culture High (TV 14)**

1. The Culture High tears into the very fiber of the modern day marijuana debate to reveal the truth behind the arguments and motives governing both those who support and oppose the existing pot laws.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘The study of civics, citizenship, and government involves learning about political systems; the purposes of government and civic life; and the differing assumptions held by people across time and place regarding power, authority, governance, and law. (Adapted from The National Standards for Civics and Government, 1994)’

**Even the Rain (NR)**

1. A Spanish film crew goes to Bolivia to shoot a revisionist historical drama exposing the exploitation by Christopher Columbus of the indigenous people. In the midst of production riots break out over the privatization of the city's water supply.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. Impact of Globalization on the Economies of Other Nations A. Definition of globalization 1. Historical development of the global economy 2. The impacts of trade flows, capital movements, direct foreign investment, tourism, and foreign trade 3. Positive and negative effects of globalization on developing and industrialized nations

**The Internet’s Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz (NR)**

1. The Internet's Own Boy follows the story of programming prodigy and information activist Aaron Swartz. From Swartz's help in the development of the basic internet protocol RSS to his co-founding of Reddit, his fingerprints are all over the internet. But it was Swartz's groundbreaking work in social justice and political organizing combined with his aggressive approach to information access that ensnared him in a two-year legal nightmare. It was a battle that ended with the taking of his own life at the age of 26. Aaron's story touched a nerve with people far beyond the online communities in which he was a celebrity.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘Central to civics and citizenship is an understanding of the roles of the citizen within American constitutional democracy and the scope of a citizen's rights and responsibilities.’

**Land and Freedom (NR)**

1. David is an unemployed communist that comes to Spain in 1937 during the civil war to enroll the republicans and defend the democracy against the fascists. He makes friends between the soldiers.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. Key Idea #1: Comparative and International Perspectives. Key Idea 1 uses comparative and philosophical thinking to explore how other political cultures perceive public issues. Here is another good opportunity for a discussion of major values perspectives and philosophical differences. Students should be able to distinguish between public policy stances in authoritarian versus nonauthoritarian regimes, statist systems (i.e., heavily bureaucratic, government-centered) versus individualistic systems (i.e., individual-centered, market-driven), and modern cultures (legalistic, rationalistic) versus traditionalistic cultures (traditional, family-based).

**The Lives of Others (R)**

1. In 1984 East Berlin, an agent of the secret police, conducting surveillance on a writer and his lover, finds himself becoming increasingly absorbed by their lives.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘The study of civics, citizenship, and government involves learning about political systems; the purposes of government and civic life; and the differing assumptions held by people across time and place regarding power, authority, governance, and law. (Adapted from The National Standards for Civics and Government, 1994)’

**Machuca (NR)**

1. Set in Chile, 1973, this is an astonishingly intimate and painful coming-of-age story about a pair of 12-year-old boys from opposite extremes of society who form an unlikely friendship during the last days of Allende and the first days of Pinochet.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. Key Idea #1: Comparative and International Perspectives. Key Idea 1 uses comparative and philosophical thinking to explore how other political cultures perceive public issues. Here is another good opportunity for a discussion of major values perspectives and philosophical differences. Students should be able to distinguish between public policy stances in authoritarian versus nonauthoritarian regimes, statist systems (i.e., heavily bureaucratic, government-centered) versus individualistic systems (i.e., individual-centered, market-driven), and modern cultures (legalistic, rationalistic) versus traditionalistic cultures (traditional, family-based).

**Manhunt: Unabomber (TV 14)**

1. An in-depth look at how an FBI profiler helped track down the terrorist Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘5. Importance of productivity and the role of technology’

**The Shock Doctrine (NR)**

1. An investigation of "disaster capitalism", based on Naomi Klein's proposition that neo-liberal capitalism feeds on natural disasters, war and terror to establish its dominance.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘F. Effects of globalization on business 1. Multinational corporations 2. Small businesses and their connections to world trade’ ‘4. Effects of globalization on the United States GD

**Snowden (R)**

1. The NSA's illegal surveillance techniques are leaked to the public by one of the agency's employees, [Edward Snowden](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5722984/?ref_=), in the form of thousands of classified documents distributed to the press.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘The study of civics, citizenship, and government involves learning about political systems; the purposes of government and civic life; and the differing assumptions held by people across time and place regarding power, authority, governance, and law. (Adapted from The National Standards for Civics and Government, 1994)’

**Waco (TV 14)**

1. The FBI and ATF seize religious leader David Koresh's Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas in the spring of 1993.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Civil Liberties, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘The study of civics, citizenship, and government involves learning about political systems; the purposes of government and civic life; and the differing assumptions held by people across time and place regarding power, authority, governance, and law. (Adapted from The National Standards for Civics and Government, 1994)’

**Waco: Rules of Engagement (NR)**

1. A reassessment of the tragedy at Waco that left 76 members of the Branch Davidian religious sect dead.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Civil Liberties, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘The study of civics, citizenship, and government involves learning about political systems; the purposes of government and civic life; and the differing assumptions held by people across time and place regarding power, authority, governance, and law. (Adapted from The National Standards for Civics and Government, 1994)’

**Wiebo’s War (NR)**

1. Tells the story of a Christian community, at war with the oil and gas industry. Wiebo Ludwig is a suspect in a series of pipeline bombings near his farm. The bombings echo a campaign of sabotage he waged 10 years ago: barricading roads, blowing up wells, culminating in the unsolved death of a teen aged girl. The Ludwigs live according to their religious values. They are self-sufficient in food and energy, but isolated, with seven unmarried adult children, and 38 grandchildren. They believe that those who don't share their beliefs, like filmmaker David York, are living in terrible darkness.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. ‘5. Importance of productivity and the role of technology’

**Other Considerations including various documentaries, movies, and miniseries**

**All Watched Over By Machines of Loving Grace (NR)**

**American Dream (PG13)**

**Battle in Seattle ®**

**Bread and Roses ®**

**Can’t Get You Out of My Head (NR)**

**Capitalism: A Love Story ®**

**Children of Men ®**

**Contagion (PG13)**

**Dam Nation (NR)**

**Dark Waters (PG13)**

**The East (PG13)**

**Harlan County USA (PG)**

**Homecoming (TV MA)**

**Hot Coffee (NR)**

**The House I Live In (NR)**

**HyperNormalisation (NR)**

**If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front (NR)**

**Judas and the Black Messiah ®**

**Killer of Sheep (NR)**

**The Killing Floor (PG)**

**Kill the Messenger ®**

**The Last Mountain (PG)**

**Let the Fire Burn (NR)**

**Mann v Ford (PG)**

**Michael Clayton ®**

**The Panama Deception (NR)**

**The Panama Papers (NR)**

**Planet of the Humans (NR)**

**The Red Road (TV 14)**

**Sicko (PG13)**

**Sorry We Missed You (NR)**

**Syriana ®**

**The Trotsky (NR)**

**This is What Democracy Looks Like (NR)**

**The War on Democracy (NR)**

**When the Levees Broke (TVMA)**

**Wormwood (NR)**

**The Young Karl Marx (NR)**