



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

Government

2012-2013

Course Description:

Government deals with the issues and problems confronting all Americans in today's society. Students will examine the structures and purposes of national, state and local governments. They will also examine the issues facing the United States both domestically and internationally. An emphasis is placed on the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens within our nation, and a broader examination of human rights throughout the world.

Course Content:

FIRST QUARTER

Unit One: The Purpose of Government

- Origins of Government in the United States
- The Principles behind the Constitution

Unit Two: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

- Political Parties
- Voters and the Electoral Process
- Mass Media and Public Opinion

Unit Three: The Legislative Process

- Congress: Structure and Procedures
- The Impact of Interest Groups

Unit Four: The Presidency

- Presidential Campaigns & Elections
- The Role and Impact of the President

SECOND QUARTER

Unit One: The Role of the Judicial Branch

- Interpreting the Constitution
- Defining & Protecting Civil Liberties
- The Impact of the Court on Society

Unit Two: State & Local Government

- The Structure & Purpose of Federalism
- The Political Process at the State level
- The Political Process at the Local level

Unit Three: The United States & Global Politics

- The Impact of Current Global Issues and Events on the United States
- The Role and Responsibilities of the United States on the World Stage

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

There is no textbook for this course. All course materials and resources will be posted and accessible on the teacher's webpage.

Course Requirements:

This course is designed to provide students with more in depth knowledge and understanding of government in our society along with their role and responsibilities as citizens in our political process. They will be required to work both individually and with their peers to analyze, assess and respond to issues and challenges that are part of our political system. They will be evaluated on their effort, quality of work and mastery of the material examined throughout the course. This will include their performance on traditional assessments such as quizzes, tests and writing assignments as well as their work on project based lessons and products generated through those lessons.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Each marking period is worth 40% of a student's overall grade. The final exam is worth 20% of a student's overall average:

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There are no Summer Reading Assignments for this course.