



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

Applied Civics & Government 2014 – 2015

Course Description:

This course examines the principles and documents that provide the foundation for both our federal government as well as the state government of Pennsylvania. Students will acquire an understanding of how the various branches of government operate along with a comparative examination of other governmental systems throughout the world and the role of the United States in addressing global issues. Special emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of the rights and responsibilities that citizens in our country possess and the many ways that individuals can play a role in government at the federal, state and local levels.

Course Content:

- The Constitution
- Federalism
- The Federal Judiciary
- Public Opinion & Political Action
- Mass Media
- Political Parties
- Nominations & Campaigns
- Elections and Voting Behavior
- Interest Groups
- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Budget Battle & Economic Policy
- The Federal Bureaucracy
- Social Welfare, Healthcare Policymaking
- The Federal Judiciary
- Civil Liberties & Public Policy
- Civil Rights & Public Policy

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Civics in Practice by Hold, Rinehart, Winston., 2007.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class prepared with proper materials and completed assignments. Students will need to demonstrate understanding of content on written assessments as well as alternative assessments. Students are expected to take notes in class and take part in class discussions.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on tests, quizzes, in-class assignments, debates, projects, simulations, homework, and essays.

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

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	20%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There are no summer readings / assignments for this course.