



Southern Lehigh School District High School Syllabus

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 our government operate along with a comparative examination of other governmental systems throughout the world. The course will also place an emphasis on 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:

- Foundations of Government and Civic Duty
- The Constitution
- Federalism
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- Political Parties
- Elections and Voting Behavior
- Public Opinion, Mass Media, & Interest Groups
- Paying for Government
- State & Local Government
- Civil Liberties

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Civics in Practice. Holt, 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 as well as alternative assessments. Students are expected to take notes in class and take part in class discussions.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Students will earn points by successfully completing homework, tests, quizzes, projects, and in-class assignments. Assignments are weighted in this class as follows:

Assessments: 60%

Homework: 20%

In-class assignments: 20%

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

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

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

None

Course Materials:

Each student is required to have a **three-ring binder AND composition notebook** to keep Civics & Government handouts organized.