Civics & Government
2012-2013

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. 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:
• The Constitution
• Federalism
• 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

Magruder's American Government by William A. McClenaghan., 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 expectected 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. Assignments will be assigned a point value, and quarter grades will be calculated on a percentage of the points earned.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	**10%**
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	**10%**

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:
None