Applied Civics & Government
2013-2014

Course Description:
This course is an in-depth examination of American Government in which students will be required to develop higher level skills in reading comprehension, analysis and writing to understand the operations of government at the federal and state level. The course will focus on the principles that provide the basis for our governmental system, the functions of the various branches, the rights and responsibilities of citizens along with a comparative study of governments in other nations. There will be an emphasis on the use of primary source documents, analytical reasoning and research with the goal of providing students with the skills necessary to success at Advanced Placement level courses in the future.

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 Holt, 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 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.

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