

**Civics (Standard)**

Credit – ½

Term(s) – 1 Semester

**Text(s):** *Magruder's American Government*, Prentice Hall, William A. McClenaghan, 2001 edition

**Prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites, but the course is intended for sophomores.

**Course Description:**

Civics is a one-semester course that is required for graduation. The purpose of the course is to acquaint the students with local, state, and national government. The Constitution Test (Illinois and U.S. Constitution) is also given in this course, and a passing grade is necessary for graduation requirements. Specific units are Foundations of the American governmental system, Citizenship and civil rights, The Nature of Our Federal Government, and Government of Illinois. This course is not recommended for freshmen.

**Course Content:**

1. Historical Beginnings of the United States
2. American Constitutional Principles
3. National and Illinois Bills of Rights and the Constitution Test
4. American Political Behavior including Political Parties, Suffrage and Elections
5. The Three Branches of the American Government
6. Comparative political systems

**Course Format:**

The format varies with the material, but material will be presented through the following: full class discussion, small group work, role plays, audio-visual technologies, textbook and outside readings, lecture and study sheets.

**Course Expectations:**

It is expected that each student will complete each in-class and homework assignment. Students are expected to come to class ready and willing to discuss the ideas in their daily assignments.

**Course Assessment:**

The following activities will be assessed with the heaviest emphasis on in-class participation and to a slightly lesser extent tests, and daily homework, and take-home essays.