CURRENT ISSUES



SYLLABUS

This course is designed to enhance your understanding of the volatile world. You will explore the various matters of contention that take place on a daily basis throughout our ever growing planet and universe. Numerous controversies and the questions they bring about will be examined throughout each class.

Current Issues involves a careful examination of situations as they arise. You will be required to scrutinize and discuss the various issues that take place throughout this semester. This is an exploratory course for the curious student and designed specifically for students who are inquisitive and want to investigate the 21st Century as it transpires. However, it also meets the needs of many students with other interests; as an elective for the analytical student with interests in education, politics, health, anthropology, national and international news and even sports! You may also view current issues as a course for upgrading critical thinking skills, or for just providing you with a general “feel” for the subject of world news. This course will be investigated through five themes.

**EDUCATION-** Examine thought-provoking and timely content focused on contemporary issues and debates. Gain a sense of perspective regarding the history of education in America. Examine the policies and objectives put in place by our elected officials that directly impact you and your road to graduation. In addition, obtain the “big picture” of education in American and develop an appreciation of how American Education has evolved.

**POLITICS-** News, opinion and multimedia on politics and government. We will follow American politics and keep up with the hottest political debates, and share your thoughts and opinions on the political news that matter to you.

**HEALTH-** Access valuable health and wellness news by researching the latest issues and debates in the health field.

**ANTHROPOLOGY –** Increase students understanding and access to current research in the field of anthropology. More specifically, to raise popular awareness of anthropology’s relevance to issues of public interest and examine commentary on sociocultural anthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology and linguistics, as well as visual anthropology and debates.

**NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL-** Examine the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, specifically activities involving the United States. Scrutinize thought-provoking and timely content focused on contemporary issues and debates. This topic is for the understanding of daily issues throughout our country and the world.

This is a lecture, article, and video based course in which topics are presented by the instructor, issues are explained and examined from various perspectives (students) and discussed as a class and/or within groups. Assigned articles are completed by students both during class periods and outside of class. Objective and analytical-type quizzes are given daily, and there is a comprehensive final exam.

Class expectations are that you provide me with your undivided attention and continuously display effort and studious behavior. Classwork grade is the expectation that all assignments given during class are completed to the best of your ability by the conclusion of class. You will not be given credit for copying a class mates work in the event it is not a group activity. Participation grade is the expectation that you will raise your hand and volunteer answers and/or provide your input when called upon. In addition, you are not talking while I am talking☺ Homework will not be given often. When it is, I highly recommend you take it seriously and complete it fully. Furthermore, I reserve the right to take into consideration your overall attitude in the event that you find yourself with a borderline grade.

**Cell Phone Policy –**

Carrying a cell phone/telecommunications device in the school building is a privilege, not a right.  Students who comply with the cell phone/telecommunications device policy shall be allowed to bring a cell phone/telecommunications device into the building so long as it is not handled and it does not emit a noise; students who are either unwilling or unable to comply with the policy, shall have the privilege of carrying a phone within the school building revoked. In the event your cell phone is a hindrance to your performance in my class room and you refuse to keep your cell phone put away in a safe place I reserve the right to lower your grade by one letter.

**GRADING:**

**CLASSWORK/PARTICIPATION: 60%**

**ASSESSMENTS: 20%**

**FINAL EXAM: 10%**

**HOMEWORK: 10%**

 **TOTAL: 100%**

 **MR. W.D. Wright Room B-216 Office C-101**

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| **Special Help Night Monday 3:00-3:30** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |