

Contemporary Issues

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Office Hours:	Monday, 9:35-11:05		

This course is designed to cover issues and events that are happening in the contemporary world. The topics that we will cover are ones that influence our individual lives as well as our community and country. We will dive into the causes and effects of major local, state, national, and international events. Students will learn how to effectively research information, disseminate that research, defend their findings using evidence, and hold intellectual conversations with their peers. The goal of this course is to make students more aware of these events and the different perspectives of each issue, while also developing fundamental research and discussion skills

Texts/ Resources:

A variety of sources will be used to help students master the objectives for this course including, primary documents, videos, newspapers, magazines, internet research, etc.

Course Schedule

This is a year-round course. As such we will have a different schedule than your semester long courses. We will follow the same weekly schedule throughout the school year. This course schedule is described below. Students must log into their googlemeet class at their scheduled time for every live class. Independent classes are completed on the students' own time, do not need to be in googlemeets, though I will be available for assistance.

- Monday: 45 min Asynchronous (independent) class
- Tuesday: 45 min Synchronous (live) class
- Wednesday: 45 min Asynchronous (independent) class
- Thursday: 45 min Synchronous (live) class
- Friday: 45 min Synchronous (live) class

Potential Units of Study

*Units of study are subject to change due to the nature of this course. Students will have the opportunity to research and present their own topics of interest to the class. *all dates listed below are subject to change**

Unit	Time Frame	Assessment Dates
Media and Research Literacy	9/8-9/22	9/22
Evaluating Claims and Evidence from online sources	9/22-9/28	9/28
Lateral Reading and Separating Fact from Opinion	9/29-10/27	10/06, 10/27
Research Paper 1: Saturday School	10/28-11/24	10/27, 11/11, 11/24

Research Paper 2: Student Choice	11/30-2/0/21	12/18, 1/19, 2/02/21
Research Paper 3: Student Choice	2/08/21-3/25/21	2/26/21, 3/12/21, 3/25/21
Research Paper 4: Student Choice	4/7/21-5/19/21	4/28/21, 5/12/21, 5/19/21
Research Paper 5: Debunking Conspiracy Theory (final project)	5/24/21-6/11/21*	5/28/21, 6/11/21

1. Media Literacy and Research Skills:
2. The COVID 19 Pandemic
3. Modern-day issues of race, racism, discrimination
4. Pollution and Climate Change
5. International Relations (North Korea, China, Russia, Middle East)
6. The 2020 Presidential Election
7. Poverty
8. Gun Control
9. Global Famine, Overpopulation
10. Mental Disorders/Illness
11. Issues in The Criminal Justice System
12. Issues in The Education System
13. Issues with social media
14. Government Surveillance and Personal Privacy
15. Nuclear Weapons

Grading Policy

<u>Summative Assessments</u>	60%		
Projects		A	100-90%
Papers		B	89-80%
Presentations		C	79-70%
Exams		D	69-60%
Journal Entries		E	59-0%
<u>Formative Assessments</u>	40%		
Classwork			
Homework			
Warm Ups			
Exit tickets			

Classroom Expectations

1. Come to class prepared and willing to learn
 - a. Come to class on time with required materials
 - b. Sit in your assigned seat and start working on the daily warm up
2. Respect yourself and those around you
 - a. Please raise your hand if you have a question/comment, or wish to get out of your seat
 - b. When the teacher or classmates is speaking you should be listening
 - c. Do not use rude gestures or language
3. Work to the best of your ability
 - a. Complete all assignments given on time. If you have questions or difficulties please do not hesitate to ask for help, that is what I am here for!
 - b. Always try your hardest even if you believe that is not enough

Online Learning Norms

Because of the COVID 19 Pandemic, some or all of our course will be held in an online environment. While we are in our online classroom all students and myself are expected to adhere to the following behavioral norms. These norms apply to both synchronous (live) online learning and asynchronous (independent) learning

1. **Be respectful**
 - a. Students and staff should show each other respect at all times, even when in the online learning environment. This means not speaking over another individual (mute your microphone until it is your turn to speak), do not send inappropriate or offensive content to other students or staff
2. **Be on time**
 - a. Students are expected to join their online classes 5-10 minutes before the scheduled start of class. This gives students time to begin their introductory activities, handle any technology issues, etc... before the start of class.
3. **Be present and active**
 - a. Students are expected to be active and present in their online classes. Students should leave their cameras turned on at all times, ask questions, complete all activities, remain in the live class (do not go on to other websites or complete other tasks) and ask for help when needed.
4. **Be mindful of your language.**
 - a. Students should use professional language when typing or speaking. This means using complete sentences, avoiding short hand and abbreviations, avoiding excessive punctuation, avoiding all caps, and using appropriate and academic language. Students should use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
5. **Be mindful of plagiarism**
 - a. Students should only submit work that is completely their own. Students are not allowed, in any circumstance or capacity, to copy someone else's work (either a classmate, peer, or from an outside source) and submit it as their own. Any time an outside source is used students should properly cite and reference the source in their work.