

Current Events

Course Information: 1 semester course, opened to grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Description:

Students will examine a number of current social issues and problems related to our world today. Topics of coverage may include: war and terrorism, violence, crime and drugs, AIDS, individual liberties, political culture, immigration, the media, as well as foreign policy issues. Topics generally reflect current issues.

Class Expectations

In order for each student to have a productive school year they need to understand what I expect of them academically and the behavior I expect from them. Students must bring with them to class the following:

1. Pencil or blue or black ink pen
2. Three ring binder/notebook/folder
3. Textbook
4. Must respect the other students in the class.
5. Responsible for knowing all rules in the handbook.
6. All assignments must be turned into the basket, IChat or drop box through the computer. Students will have two school days to turn in homework after due date. The first day after the due date the paper will lose 15% in points. The second day after the due date the work will be accepted for a 30% deduction. No zero will be placed in the grade book until after the third day. Work can be turned in after three days until the last two weeks of the quarter, the highest possible grade the student can receive is a 68%.

Course Requirements

Students will be graded in the following ways.

Research Paper: Students will conduct a short research paper each quarter in order to delve deeper into a topic that has been discussed in the initial quarter of the semester. This assignment is designed to increase writing skills, learn a new citation style and reach the meta-cognitive (creation and solidification of knowledge) level of learning.

Homework, Projects, Writing Assignments, etc.: Homework will consist of a variety of assignments designed to engage students and aid/determine retention. There will be a variety of differentiated assignments. It is absolutely vital to student grades that these assignments are taken seriously, especially out of class readings. There may be supplemental readings assigned for further knowledge that **will** be tested and may not be discussed in class.

Tests and Quizzes

Tests and quizzes will typically be given at the end of a unit. They will also be given to assess geography assignments. The format of these tests will be given in advance and will vary between units. Any student found cheating or talking during an exam **will** be given a zero and not allowed to make this up. I take plagiarism and cheating very seriously. It will not be tolerated.

Assignments and Grading Scale

Test will count as 45% of your grade, projects & quizzes will count 45% of your grade and homework will count for 10%.

The Grading Scale:	100% to 93%	A
	92 to 84%	B
	83 to 75%	C
	74 to 69%	D
	68% and below	F

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