

Course Name: Contemporary World Issues

Course Code: SOC670

Course Description:

As current as the latest headlines, this class will explore world events and issues by looking for their causes and historical background. Students will study and analyze national changes, world-wide changes, trends and predictions for the future. Information for classroom discussion will come from on current publications (newspapers, magazines, and Internet). Students who enjoy politics, current events, debates, class discussions, role playing, & technology will enjoy this course.

Students will be challenged to argue and provide valid/relevant/timely evidence *they* find, to support their position on a variety of contemporary issues.

The use of technology will be a central component of the course in attacking 21st Century Skills

- information & communication technology
- problem solving & critical thinking
- global awareness
- self-direct learning
- time management & personal responsibility
- collaboration

Technology will include: Internet, Twitter, QR codes, Wiki's, Animation, Video, & more!

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Shifting Sands- Balancing US Interests in the Middle East

Unit 2: The US Role in a Changing World

Unit 3: International Trade- Competition & Cooperation in a Globalized World

Unit 4: Student Choice: Terrorism, Geoengineering, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Unit 5: Student Collaboration

Unit 6: Student Choice

Course Objectives:

1. Current Issues in Historical Context
 - a. Students will analyze current issues in a historical context
 - b. Students will evaluate positions on current issues based on an analysis of history (History 4.4.1)
2. Global Community
 - a. Students will understand their role in the global community locally, nationally, and internationally.
 - b. Students will analyze how people, resources, environment and culture are interconnected
 - c. Students will analyze the short-term and long-term implications of decisions affecting the global community.
3. Global Economy
 - a. Students will understand the interconnectedness of our global economy
 - b. Analyzes how economic choices made by groups and individuals in the global economy can impose costs and provide benefits. (Econ 2.1.1)
 - c. Analyzes and evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of different economic systems for countries and groups of people. (Econ 2.2.1)
 - d. Understand the role of governments in developing, maintaining, and sustaining global economics.
 - e. Students will analyze and evaluate how individuals affect and are affected by the distribution of resources and sustainability (Econ 2.4.1)
 - f. Students will understand basic economic vocabulary and concepts in order to be prepared to understand global issues (may include)

Want/Get
Gap
Scarcity
Loans
Credit
Interest

Budget
Debt
Deficit
Tax System
Recession
Depression

Economic
Cycle
Supply and
Demand

4. Global Politics
 - a. Students will analyze the role of governments, international organizations and individual in addressing global issues.
5. Social Issues
 - a. Analyzes how culture impacts economy and government
 - b. Analyzes and evaluates the relationship between social, political, and economic factors affecting cultural interactions.
6. Social Studies Skills
 - a. INQUIRY BASED RESEARCH
 - i. Students will use multiple sources to gather credible evidence in order to form a position on global issues
 - b. UNDERSTANDING MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES
 - i. Students will analyze the motives, interests and perspectives behind a position on a global issue.
 - c. DISCOURSE and DELIBERATION
 - i. Students will evaluate how discussion and proposed solutions changes or solidifies their own position on global issues.
 - ii. Students will communicate clearly their position and the position of others on global issues.
 - iii. Students will understand the difference between discourse and debate.

Potential Topics may or may not include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Disasters • Global Trade • Distribution of Natural Resources • Space (NASA, International Space Station) • Globalization - economics, media, communication, social networks • Environment - Human Impact on Earth • Foreign Policy (Military/Diplomacy/Trade Sanction/Humanitarian Aid) • Citizenship Responsibilities • Terrorism • Weapons of Mass Destruction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Organizations & Agreements (UN, NAFTA, EU, OPEC, AU, NATA, Red Cross, World Bank, UNICEF, G-8*, Green Peace) • Rule of Law/ Law & Order/Crime/International Court System • Role of Religion in Society and Politics • Human Rights • World Health and Disease • Hunger and Poverty • Population Migration & Changing Demographics • Access to Education |
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Number/Description of Assignments, Projects, Activities, etc:

There is for each Unit:

- An electronic, auto-scored, multiple choice quiz over basic knowledge & comprehension contained in the unit.
- A Discussion about the Unit topic
- A Discussion (~weekly) about a timely Current Event or Global Topic
- An researched argument
- A presentation option (students choose how they will present their position and supported evidence)

Materials:

All course materials are included in the course or available through independent search on the Internet, and have been approved for district use.

Timelines & Methods for evaluating student progress:

Students are expected to log in daily and submit assignments on a weekly basis. Progress will be evaluated each month based progress towards assignment completion of assignments.

This course meets state and district graduation requirements in the area of Social Studies

Weekly contact will be conducted through a submitted assignment with instructor feedback.

Students who do not submit an assignment are expected to email or call his/her instructor. In all cases, communication between student & instructor is important. This can be via: email, messages, instant messenger, discussion boards, and/or phone.

Each student is expected to spend **a minimum of five hours per week** on this course. Additional hours may be necessary to complete the course successfully.

Beginning & end date is listed in the course grade book.