

CONTEMPORARY WORLD ISSUES
TEACHER: Mrs. Heidi Williams
Email: hwilliams@northfork.k12.oh.us
2nd Block Planning

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary World Issues is a course designed to engage and prepare students to analyze governments, people and cultures from around the world. Instruction will begin with some basic knowledge and understanding of past history. It will then emphasize on the structures and policies of the United States and how they compare to other systems in the international community. Students apply critical thinking and research skills to examine current events and contemporary issues, including human rights, globalization, America's role in the international economy, environmental issues in different regions, religion and how it is often used to facilitate and justify violence and behavior, "War on Terror" and more.

The course will be divided into 6 units:

Why Study History / Introduction
World Politics and Law
Conflict
Human and Civil Rights
Environment and Economy
Religion and Morality

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Identify, analyze and evaluate the decisions and actions of significant events that have shaped modern history
- Engage in thoughtful dialogue with their peers and share well informed opinions related to historical events
- Work effectively both individually and collaboratively on historical projects
- Read, write and research various historical topic and events
- Utilize technology to further enhance and develop their understanding of modern historical events.
- Present historical research in a well organized and interesting format

Course Activities

Each unit will focus around essential questions related to the 6 themes. Students will use a variety of skills and content material regarding various historical events to answer these questions in a thoughtful and critical manner.

Students will be engaged in a wide variety of individual and collaborative projects that highlight their knowledge and skill development.

Technology will play a significant role in this course as students will use discussions, the internet, on line assessments and various software applications to contribute to a digital portfolio that will highlight their work.

Digital Portfolio: Each student will be expected to contribute to a digital portfolio using Weebly. This portfolio will highlight their understanding of the Essential Questions for the course. There will be 6 required entries: an essay, brochure, Keynote, Video and iMovie. **This will be built upon ALL semester, from day one.**

Course Outline

Unit 1: Why Study History / Introduction & FOCUS SKILL: Writing a 5 Paragraph Paper (4 weeks) **Pages**
Unit 2: World Politics and Law & FOCUS SKILL: Analyzing Documents and Maps (6 weeks) **Keynote, Other**
Unit 3: Conflicts & Resolutions & FOCUS SKILL: Debate & Presentation (6 weeks) **Keynote, Brochure/ Flyer**
Unit 4: Human and Civil Rights & FOCUS SKILL: Persuasive Speech (6 weeks) **Speech / Video**
Unit 5: Environment and Economy & FOCUS SKILL: Research and Charts (6 weeks) **iMovie, Graphs**
Unit 6: Religion and Morality & FOCUS SKILL: Research (6 weeks) **Research Paper, Charts/Table**

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Evaluation Criteria

Students grades will be regularly posted on Progressbook. Grades will be calculated using the following scale:

Classroom Participation (20%): Students are expected to engage in classroom discussions, assignments and group projects on a regular basis.

Quizzes (15%): Online quizzes will be given on a weekly based on material that is currently being covered in class.

Tests (25%): Tests will be given following each unit. * Written End of the Semester exam will count for 2 test grades

Projects (40%): Group & Individual projects must be completed on time and meet the criteria of corresponding rubrics.

Materials and Resources

- Students will be using various handouts, articles etc
- **Students are expected to bring their iPad and charger to class every day.**
- Students will also need **headphones**. Please let your teacher know if this is a problem.

Policies

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material as one's own. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from a 0 or F on a particular assignment through an F for the course.

Classroom behavior: Viewpoints and concerns should be expressed in terms which are supportive of the learning process. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class. Each class will be creating its' own Social Contract where all members of the classroom will be expected to follow.

Internet: Please be aware that a great deal of the class structure revolves around the use of technology. While having internet access at home is helpful, it is certainly not mandatory. Most of the assignments can be done without the internet since they are based on software applications (Pages, Keynote, etc). If you do not have internet access, you will need to plan ahead to complete research here at school or at the town library. Lack of internet access will not be accepted as an excuse for incomplete assignments.

Late Work: Students are expected to turn work in on time. Any project that is late will result in a 5 point deduction from the graded score for each day the work is late. This means if you earn an 80%, but turn the work in a day late, you will receive a 75%. Students know their schedule/assignments at the beginning of every week. If they miss a day an assignment is due, then they turn assignment in the day they return. If it's an EXCUSED absence time will be granted accordingly, however if UNEXCUSED, then make up work will be at the discretion of the teacher.

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Tentative Schedule:

1st Semester:

August 23rd - September 20th:

- Unit 1 Why Do We Study History
- Possible Topics: Holocaust, 9/11, Great Depression
- 5 Paragraph Essay on Perspective
- Discussion: Current Events
- Interview

September 21st - October 16th:

- Unit 2 World Politics and Law
- Possible Topics: Constitution, Court Cases, Types of Governments, Founders of Theories
- Document Based Questions
- Debate
- Comic Project

October 23rd - November 9th:

- Unit 2 Wrap Up
- See Above

November 13th - December 13th:

- Unit 3 Conflict and Resolutions
- Possible Topics: WWII, Cold War, 9/11- War on Terror, Syria / Russia and North Korea
- Keynote
- Propaganda / Media

Jan 3rd - January 10th:

- Unit 3 Wrap Up
- See Above

January 16th - February 23rd:

- Unit 4 Human and Civil Rights
- Possible Topics: Civil Rights, Feminism, Nativism, Racism
- Public Speaking
- Video / Media

February 26th - March 16th:

- Unit 5 Environment and Economy
- Possible Topics: NAFTA, EU, Recessions, Supply and Demand, Types of Economies, Environmental Issues
- Charts and Budgets
- iMovie

April 2nd - April 20th:

- Unit 5 Wrap Up
- See Above

April 23rd - May 14th:

- Unit 6 Religion and Morality
- Possible Topics: Different Types of Religion, Doctrines, Events in the name of Religion
- Research Paper
- Tables

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PARENT INFORMATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SHEET
(Please Complete and Return)

As parent/guardian of _____, I have read the course syllabus and understand the procedures
(Student Name)
and policies that are in place.

(Date)

(Parent Signature)

Please respond to the following questions:

Do you have internet access at home? yes no

What relationship are you to the student? _____

What is the best way to contact you (please circle one) phone email either

Phone #: _____

***Please provide an email even if you prefer a phone call. I send out weekly updates to parents on material covered etc.**

Email address: _____

Other Comments: