

Grade 12 (Contemporary Problems) Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course is offered as a full-year course to seniors. It is designed for students who desire a practical rather than an academic interpretation of world affairs. This study in contemporary affairs will endeavor to investigate many of the social, political, and economic problems which confront our society today. Emphasis will be placed on current events. The reading of newspapers, magazines, and periodicals will be encouraged.

Learning Experiences:

This class largely employs discussion-based learning. The specific topics and methodology for covering these topics varies from one year to the next based on contemporary issues in the world. We utilize magazines, newspapers and other periodicals as well as audio-visual mediums to further our understanding of the world in which we live. The students are also required to keep a newspaper journal of three articles a week. For each article, the student must cut out the story, with the date attached, and write a short summary/opinion for each. Our overall focus is in answering the following essential questions: What is happening in the world today? Why? Why is it important to follow the news regularly? How do international events affect our own lives? How can technology be used to access current events?

Content Outline:

Our content varies from year to year. Each year begins with coverage of the terrorist attack on 9/11/01 and the subsequent events involving terrorism and associated incidents. We cover major political, economic, social, and environmental issues affecting the international world.

Resources Used:

New York Times Upfront Magazine, The Week Magazine, USA Today, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Time Magazine, 60 Minutes, PBS: Frontline, Student News Daily (www.studentnewsdaily.com)