

Global Issues

Social Studies
NCAA Approved

Grade(s) 11th - 12th, Duration 1 Semester, 1 Credit
Elective Course

Description

This is an upper division social studies class for the student who desires an opportunity to explore current world affairs in greater depth. This course examines the changing issues that affect our world, nation and community. Because the issues in the world are always changing, the course content also changes from year to year. Students will help determine the units of study for each course. A unit of study consistent from year to year is an examination of inter-governmental organizations. Other topics have included: global population issues, water/food security, world health issues, genocide, terrorism, religions of the world, climate change/global warming, human migrations, economic globalization. Students will be required to keep abreast of current affairs and to be curious about them. This is a project based course, and as such, students will complete a series of group and individual projects.

Scope And Sequence

Timeframe	Unit	Instructional Topics
Ongoing	International Government Structures	
Ongoing	The Arab/Israeli Conflict	
Ongoing	Weapons Proliferation/ Global Security/Terrorism	
Ongoing	Global Poverty	
Ongoing	Sustainable Development, Population and Protection of the Environment	
Ongoing	Genocide	
Ongoing	Aid agencies and the global community	
Ongoing	Final Project	

Materials and Resources

The materials for this course are taken predominantly from current event media. In addition the books *Wanting Mor* by Rukhsana Khan, *Sold* by Patricia McCormick, and *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai will also be utilized.

Course Details

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: International Government Structures

Description

All people have basic human rights. As global citizens, we have a collective responsibility to better understand the world outside our own borders, protect and preserve the human rights of people everywhere, and challenge injustice wherever it occurs.

In this unit we explore international governmental structures. Students gain an understanding of how global decision making is accomplished.

Essential Questions

What does it mean to be a "global citizen," and how is this similar to national citizenship?
How is it different from national citizenship?

What rights do I have as a global citizen? Where do those rights come from and how are they protected?

What responsibilities do I have as a global citizen to people within and outside the borders of my own country, and to the planet?

How can I fulfill the responsibilities of global citizenship? What can I do as an individual in my day-to-day life to make a difference?

Assessments

See IGO project

Vocabulary

Charter, International law, Citizenship, United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: The Arab/Israeli Conflict

Description

This unit will attempt to cover the major events that make up the history of this conflict, as well as cover the key issues standing in the way of resolution. Students will be presented with perspectives on both sides of the conflict to understand how deeply seeded beliefs have intensified the hostilities between the nations.

Essential Questions

How is this conflict important to the study/understanding of the greater Middle East region?
What is currently going on there?

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What are the major issues standing in the way of resolving the conflict?

Assessments

Discussion Seminar
Close Read

Resources

Video- Inside Hamas
Up Front article The Middle East

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: Weapons Proliferation/ Global Security/Terrorism

Description

In this unit, students will focus on one area (region, continent, country, etc.) of critical importance impacted by nuclear proliferation and/or terrorism. Students will develop fundamental research skills that allow them to access a variety of academic information.

Essential Questions

What are the root causes of terrorism and why are terrorist movements continuing to gain momentum in the 21st century?
What are the causes and consequences of nuclear proliferation?
How are the people of a particular region affected by terrorism?

Assessments

See attached projects

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: Global Poverty

Description

In this unit we explore the critical issue of global poverty and explore potential solutions to extreme poverty.

Essential Questions

What is poverty?
How does poverty impact individuals, families, and communities?
How can economic opportunities close to home help alleviate poverty in communities (micro-credit)?

Assessments

See poverty project

Resources

Guest speaker John Dewitt

Vocabulary
Micro-credit

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: Sustainable Development, Population and Protection of the Environment

Description

This unit explores current issues related to the environment with particular attention paid to overpopulation.

Essential Questions

Will the earth's population increase to a level that could lead to a global crisis?

Why are populations growing faster in some areas of the world than in others?

How have governments and religions attempted to influence population growth trends.

What political, economic, and social factors influence population migration streams?

Assessments

Population project
Close Read attached population article

Resources

http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_on_global_population_growth?language=en

Vocabulary

Carrying capacity
Fertility
Life expectancy
Population growth

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: Genocide

Description

Students will explore genocide as the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic,

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racial, religious, or national group, with the intention of preventing future genocides.

Essential Questions

How are genocide and other acts of mass violence humanly possible?
What choices do people make that allow collective violence to happen?
Who decides how laws or rules are applied? How can we ensure that laws and rules are applied to everyone in the same way?

Assessments

Genocide Awareness Project

Resources

The film Sometimes in April.

Vocabulary

Genocide

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: Aid agencies and the global community

Description

This unit will focus on organizations and individuals who are actively working to solve the problems that face the world today. The intention of this unit is to inspire students to affect positive change in the world.

Essential Questions

How can individuals influence international relations?
What are the solutions to the problems we face as a global community?

Assessments

Find the Helpers project

Resources

Charitywatch.org

Duration: Ongoing

Unit: Final Project

Description

Students will simulate the process of joining the Peace Corps for their final project.

Essential Questions
See attachment