

# Welcome to Global Issues

## CLASS OVERVIEW

This is a **social studies elective** for the student who **desires an opportunity to explore current world affairs in greater depth. If you are interested in history and current global issues, this is the right place for you!** This course examines the changing issues that affect our world, nation, and communities. Because the issues in the world are always changing, the course content also changes from year to year. Students will help determine the topics we will focus on. Points of discussion will include *the global community, war and conflict, climate and energy, global technology and innovation, and protest and change*. Students will be required to keep informed of current affairs; curiosity is crucial! This is a project based course, and as such, students will create and present a series of projects.

### Past student testimonials:

"[I wanted to let you know] how much I really enjoyed [Global Issues] and having you as a teacher- it gave me enough knowledge of foreign affairs and interest in them to take a 200-level class on foreign policy through the lens of imperialism this semester!" -email from an MEHS student who is now in college

"Through [this] class, I learned more about nuclear weapons and the effects it has on society and people today. And through the knowledge gained from Global Issues, I applied to Point Hope Youth Congress for Global Elimination of Nuclear Weaponization and was accepted. Now I work with people across the country and globe to learn more about the threat of Nuclear Weapons and try to educate others about them." -former MEHS student

"The class was on fire." -former MEHS student

"Long term wise, I want to become more active in supporting issues like women's rights in the middle east, or climate change. I want to try and convince my parents to run out of home on more green energy instead of gas. I want to educate myself on ways I can be involved, maybe using some of the sources that I got from this class." - graduating MEHS senior

"I've learned so much in this class and I'm going to remind others how this is a beast class." -current MEHS student

### Key Learning Objectives

- Study current global topics through reading, discussing, and writing
- Read to make inferences and draw conclusions
- Analyze and form arguments
- Support ideas with facts and evidence, especially when discussing and debating
- Present information effectively
- Debate effectively

### Key Learning Strategies

- Read and annotate informational text
- Participate in small group and whole class discussions and debates
- Focus on argumentative and informative speaking and writing
- Support arguments with evidence
- Practice the process of inquiry
- Create and present information appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

As stated above, this class is project-based, focusing on the creation and presentation of **self-selected** Global Issues topics. We will build speaking and listening skills, a critical skill for students who are interested in taking on **leadership** roles in life.

We will also read **one biographical novel** this trimester related to global issues.

CLASS RULES So that you can learn and I can teach, I have a set of rules to ensure we have an orderly and successful classroom.

1. **BE POLITE AND RESPECTFUL.** Treat each person in this room with dignity and be polite. Respect the classroom; no gum, food, or hats/hoods. When you disagree, disagree respectfully at an appropriate time.
2. **BE READY TO WORK HARD.** Come to class on time and prepared. Bring appropriate materials. Complete assignments and homework on time. Take responsibility for your learning by getting the help you need when you need it. I am here to help you succeed. **ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF~**
3. **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS THE FIRST TIME THEY ARE GIVEN.** Listen to directions. Be engaged. And always keep your head up.

Consequences for choosing to follow rules:

Positive feedback  
A stress free, pleasant class  
More time to work during class

Consequences for choosing to not follow rules:

Warning  
After school  
Failure to show up at scheduled time after school brings you to step 4.  
Parent contact and an Action Plan to improve behavior  
Incident report and/or parent contact

Important rules to consider:

- Almost all of the coursework will be accessible digitally. It is expected that you will bring your charged laptop to class each day. We will use it daily.
- Phone use: No phones, no earbuds. Pouch your phone when you enter the classroom: your pouched phone will be used for attendance. Communicate with me if you need it for an emergency
- For each unexcused tardy expect to have 3 points deducted from your timeliness grade: check power school if you're wondering how it is affecting your grade. I will not remind you. Be to class on time.

### CLASS PROCEDURES

Procedures are important for creating an effective and successful learning environment.

**Start of class and end of class:** We will often begin with a CNN 10 or audio warm up, focusing on the day's news, followed by the agenda and a warm up. You have the last 3 minutes of class to clean your desks.

**Homework/assignments:** need to be done *at the beginning of class* to be considered on time.

**Late work:** You begin with a bank of points called "Timeliness" (30 points) for the trimester. For each assignment turned in late, 3 points will be taken from this total. (And remember, unexcused tardies= -3 points.)

**Absences:** You have the amount of days you were absent to turn in assignments for full credit. *\*\* You are responsible for requesting the missed work from me before or after school.*

Missing work due to absences or traveling will be a zero until made up. You will be given credit for the assignment when it is turned in.

### GRADING

A= 90% to 100%

B=80% to 89%

C=70% to 79%

NC=below 70%

Grades will be determined on a point system.

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

45 % skills practice

45 % Assessments

10% Life Skills

*\*\*A major part of your grade will be a cumulative portfolio of learning, including a self reflection. We will work on this the last couple of weeks of the trimester. This on-going portfolio will be your "final."*

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** In signing the technology agreement at the beginning of the school year, you contracted not to plagiarize. Consequences for plagiarism are: 1<sup>st</sup> offense: No Credit for assignment; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense or severe 1<sup>st</sup> offense: No Credit for class. Do not cheat. Do not use AI/ChatGPT to do your work.

Plagiarism is:

- To steal and use the ideas or writings of another as one's own
- To appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one's own
- To take and use as one's own the writings or ideas of another
- When using another's thoughts or ideas in your work, whether you have considered, paraphrased or quoted them, ALWAYS cite your sources! (Drake)

### COMMUNICATION

My email address is michaelh@mehs.us. My phone number is 966-3211. The best time to reach me is between 4:00-4:30 pm or during my prep period. I always welcome emails, google hangouts, and phone calls from you or your home. I am available to discuss topics relating to our class or your stay here at MEHS.

**I believe in your potential to succeed in this class. Have an awesome trimester!**