

Mr. Brucher
Rm. 22

Contemporary World Issues

Course Description:

Contemporary World Issues (CWI) is a one-semester junior/senior elective class that fulfills the social studies requirement for graduation. The focus of this course is the discussion of current events (both foreign and domestic). To provide information for discussion and to supplement the course, each student will have a classroom subscription to the *New York Times Upfront* magazine (it's a bi-weekly magazine), as well as a daily copy of the *Moline Dispatch*.

There is NO TEXTBOOK for this class. As such, students should retain the magazines for the duration of the course. Other course materials may be photocopied and distributed as needed to supplement current event topics of discussion. All materials should be kept for the semester to refer back to and help in preparation for quizzes, tests, projects, papers and the final exam.

In addition to current events, we will study political cartoons, and also explore specific units of study – these units will include, but are not limited to: World Geography, World Religions, Wealth Distribution/Poverty (3rd World); and possibly specific countries where current events are taking “center stage.”

Materials Needed:

1. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to purchase a 1-inch 3-ring binder for this course, or at the very least a folder! Since there is no textbook, a majority of the information will be photocopied and you will need to organize it.
2. Highlighters – at least 2 and preferably different colors for highlighting articles
3. Notebook and pen/pencil

Class Guidelines and Expectations:

1. Always be prepared and on time for class.
2. Daily work (such as homework assignments) will be accepted up to one (1) day late for partial credit. After one day, late daily assignments will NOT be accepted and will receive a zero.
3. You will be allowed to hand in late major assignments (such as papers and projects), but they will be lowered 7% per school day it is late (up to 5 days).
4. Absences from school are your responsibility! It is YOUR responsibility to find out what was missed in class!
5. Plagiarized assignments will receive no credit!
6. This is not a hard class, but I do expect you to focus on this subject when you are in this class

Grading:

Your grade for this class is figured based on a cumulative points system. You will receive a weekly participation grade (10 pts. each week), we will have quizzes during the course, and tests over specific units of study. There will also be projects and papers assigned throughout the semester that are connected to our units of study.

Additional Notes:

- The high school grading scale will be used to assign grades
- Quizzes and tests will cover class notes and discussions, magazine and/or newspaper articles, handouts and any other information provided by the teacher!