

Contemporary Issues Syllabus

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Overview

This course will utilize a cooperative learning approach to examine the many diverse issues of today's global society. The aim of the course is to engage the students in an active learning experience that includes but is not limited to the history, geography, ecology, economy and politics of our rapidly changing global community.

Assessment

A variety of teaching and assessment strategies will be utilized to assess each student's active learning achievements. Students will be required to participate in class discussions, participate in-group projects, prepare individual essays and reports, complete essays and papers and complete tests and quizzes. Assessment strategies will focus on critical thinking skills and the ability of each student to apply and analyze acquired knowledge.

Expectations

- Students are expected to arrive to every class on time and prepared to learn.
- All work is expected to be completed on time including daily homework assignments.
- This will be a dynamic class that requires the active participation of each and every student.
- Students are expected to treat each other and the instructor with respect at all times.
- Each student needs to pick at least one issue and become the resident class "expert."
- Each student will be required to create one action project each semester.

Topics and Themes

Students will have an opportunity help choose from the vast array of available contemporary issues to be studied. Some of these topics may include;

- Globalization
- Overpopulation
- Deforestation
- Desertification
- Natural disasters
- Militarism
- Drugs
- Terrorism
- Westernization
- Human rights
- World trade
- Fossil fuels
- Nuclear Power
- Alternative energy sources
- Alternative food resources
- World politics
- Global warming
- Socialism, Capitalism, Communism
- United Nations
- NATO
- European Union
- Religion and Conflict
- Technology today