

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES  
GRADES 9-12  
(1 Semester)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

<p>This class is designed to engage students in the vital issues facing the United States and the World. Students will consider local, national and international issues. Students will be exposed to various opinions and develop their own views on the issues considered.</p>
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UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

UNIT I - National (Domestic) Affairs

UNIT II - International

UNIT III - Socio-Economic Issues

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1.	Analyze similarities and differences among world political systems. (14B)
2.	Analyze how local, state, and national governments serve the purposes for which they are created. (14A)
3.	Analyze relationships and tensions among members of the international community. (14E)
4.	Analyze the roles of individuals, groups, and media in shaping current debates on state and national policies. (14D)
5.	Analyze major contemporary cultural exchanges as influenced by worldwide communications. (18C)
6.	Analyze the influence of cultural factors in developing pluralistic societies. (18A)
7.	Interpret a variety of public policies and issues from the perspectives of different individuals and groups. (14D)
8.	Develop critical thinking and writing skills.

MAJOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:

1.	Research projects using Internet resources.
2.	Mock trials.
3.	Case studies of major constitutional and legal court decisions.
4.	Policy proposals regarding controversial issues.
5.	Formal class debates.

ADOPTED TEXT OR PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED:

*Newsweek.*

Topical handouts, reprints, videos and other materials dealing with national and international issues.

(01/21/03)

(07/08/99)

(03/23/95)