

Contemporary World Issues

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will compare governments, economies, cultures and geography of the world. Emphasis will be placed on the civics, politics, economics, structures, processes and policies of United States and then compared with those of the international community. Students will use what they know and learn about the United States and the world to analyze current events and contemporary issues. Reasoning and research skills will be applied to the content throughout the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- **Unit 1** – Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of globalization.
- **Unit 2** – Analyze American principles and how they impact the world.
- **Unit 3** – Examine America’s role in the global economy.
- **Unit 4** – Describe how American culture being integrated into global cultures and its impact.
- **Unit 5** – Explain how religion is being used to facilitate and justify violence.
- **Unit 6** – Describe severe environmental crises in regions around the globe.
- **Unit 7** – Analyze the global impact of the Internet on the world from a political and social point of view.
- **Unit 8** – Examine human rights issues, such as child labor and the oppression of women and minorities around the world.
- **Unit 9** – Analyze America’s “War on Terror” and its impact on the Middle East and Islamic Culture.
- **Unit 10** – Examine America’s political and social impact on the global community.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE LENGTH: Two Semesters

REQUIRED TEXT: Google Earth application

COURSE OUTLINE:

UNIT I: Introduction to Contemporary World Issues

- Section 1 – Contemporary World Issues in Context
- Section 2 – Globalization
- Section 3 – The Challenges of the Modern World
- Section 4 – Hope in the Modern World: Progress and Development
- Section 5 – Semester A Final Project: Part I

UNIT II: Modern Political Climate

- Section 1 – America: Home and Abroad
- Section 2 – Eastern Europe and Asia
- Section 3 – Africa and South America
- Section 4 – The Middle East
- Section 5 – Semester A Final Project: Part II

UNIT III: Economy

- Section 1 – America: Home and Abroad
- Section 2 – Eastern Europe and Asia
- Section 3 – Africa and South America
- Section 4 – The Middle East

Section 5 – Semester A Final Project: Part III

UNIT IV: Society and Culture

Section 1 – American Culture and Western Civilization

Section 2 – Europe and Russia

Section 3 – The Middle East

Section 4 – Modernity: Art and Entertainment

Section 5 – Semester A Final Project: Part IV

UNIT V: Religion and Morality

Section 1 – Church and State

Section 2 – Communism and Religion

Section 3 – The Holy Land

Section 4 – Islam and Jihad

Section 5 – Semester A Final Project: Part V

UNIT VI: Environmental Crisis

Section 1 – Industrial Development in America

Section 2 – Social Impact of Industrialization

Section 3 – Global Environment

Section 4 – Semester B Final Project: Part I

UNIT VII: Technology

Section 1 – Technological Advancements in the 21st Century

Section 2 – World Wide Web

Section 3 – Modern Industrial Advancements

Section 4 – Semester B Final Project: Part II

UNIT VIII: Human and Civil Rights

Section 1 – Civil Rights in America

Section 2 – Communism and Civil Rights

Section 3 – Human Rights

Section 4 – Semester B Final Project: Part III

UNIT IX: Conflict

Section 1 – Shaping the Middle East

Section 2 – Communism across the Globe

Section 3 – Africa

Section 4 – The Holy Land

Section 5 – Semester B Final Project: Part IV

UNIT X: America and the World

Section 1 – Shaping the Middle East

Section 2 – Global Community

Section 3 – Semester B Final Project: Part V