

# **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

## **TEXT**

Various supplemental readings and newspapers

## **PREREQUISITES**

11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade or with the permission of the teacher

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Create an awareness and understanding of events and conditions of the world and contemporary society
- Increase understanding of the influence of the legal and legislative system on national and world events
- Develop the ability to think critically
- Develop the ability to articulate opinions with supporting evidence

## **CONTENT**

Since the class is heavily based on current events, the content of the class is dictated, in part, to current national and world events. However, topics in the past have included:

- American foreign policy
- Civil rights and civil liberties
- The media and public opinion
- Local, state, national, and international political climates/relations and religion
- Bill of Rights
- Electoral process and elections
- Legal procedures/juvenile law

## **SKILLS**

- Research/Analysis
- Critical/Analytical thinking
- Public speaking
- Listening ability

## **METHODS**

- Socratic method
- Classroom presentations
- Quizzes/tests
- Short research papers

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework consists of reading assignments, specific written assignments, reading newspaper and/or watching the news on a daily basis, and preparation for oral presentations, research papers, and tests.

## **GRADING/CREDIT**

Grade/credit is based on class participation/attendance and completion of written assignments/quizzes/tests/class presentations/and short research papers. All assigned work must be submitted for full credit. Assignments submitted after the due date will result in the lowering of grade on the assignment. Grades are assigned on the basis of a point scale.

## **INDIVIDUALIZATION**

Students can participate in every discussion at their own individual level.

## **ABSENCES/TARDIES**

As a result of the heavy emphasis placed on class discussion, excessive absences and/or tardies will result in lowered grade and/or credit.