

Current Issues Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Matello

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Classroom Number: 116C



Course Description: The Current Issues course will investigate the political, social, and economic issues as they pertain to events that occur in an ever-changing global community. Through research, reading, debate, and discussion, students will examine the causes, effects, and think critically concerning future solutions to various current issues. In the belief that students cannot make judgments or understand current situations without some background in recent history, we will study the history of issues as we progress through the semester.

Classroom Policy: Students should come to class with all of the necessary materials for the day; this will always include the list of materials below. Additionally, in order for us to successfully learn about the diversity of the world, we must all be open minded and treat each other with the utmost respect.

Attendance: Students should be in class on a daily basis. Your success in this course depends on it. In the event of an absence, it is **the STUDENT'S responsibility to get the make-up work**. Check the Digital Session of the day you've missed. The grade will remain a 0 in the gradebook until the assignment has been made up.

Grades Determination:

80% Summative Assessments – Projects, Assessments/Quizzes, Research Paper/Project
20% Formative Assessments – Weekly Article Review, Daily Tasks

All assignments are due on the assigned date. Students may turn work in early. Assignments must be turned in through CTLS, unless otherwise specified.

Grading Scale:

90 – 100	A	70 – 73	D
80 – 89	B	Below 70	F
74 – 79	C		

Digital Session Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

1 st Block	8:00- 9:10
Break	9:10- 9:20
2 nd Block	9:20-10:30
Break	10:30-10:40
3 rd Block	10:40- 11:50
Lunch	11:50-12:20
4 th Block	12:20- 1:30
Independent Work	1:30- 3:30

**** Wednesday will be reserved for independent work, small group instruction, and other instructional needs.**

Digital Learning Expectations:

- A. Enter the CTLS platform at least 5 minutes before your class is scheduled to begin by visiting:
<https://studentportal.educationincites.com/#/>
- B. You are expected to remain in class for the entire digital session.
- C. Cameras are expected to be on when you enter your live session. Microphones are expected to be muted until you are called on.
- D. Find a quiet place to learn with minimal distractions to work. Keep your phone away and eat before you enter the digital classroom.
- E. Assignments must be turned in through CTLS. No assignments will be accepted through email or Office365
- F. Turn in your original work only. Teachers will be using “Turn It In” which is a plagiarism detection software.
- G. All aspects of the CCSD Code of Student Conduct are in effect.

Discipline:

In the event there is a violation of these, or any, school rules and policies, the school-wide discipline plan will be applied.

Course Content: Topics may include, but are not limited to the following. Other topics discussed will include those that will come up in the news in our ever-changing world.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Human Rights | - Genocide | - Bullying/Cyberbullying |
| - 2020 Presidential Campaign | - Child Soldiers | - Environmental Issues |
| - Immigration | - Social Media/Technology | - Poverty |
| - International Refugee Crisis | - Domestic Social Issues | - Secondary Education |
| - US/World Economy | - Human Trafficking | - Global Terrorism |
| - Education | - COVID19 | - Minority Rights/Issues |

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the students.

Mrs. Matello's Current Issues Remind Sign-Up Info

Pick a way to receive messages for My Class:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.st/code

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @code to the number 81010.

The image shows two mobile phone screens. The top screen displays the 'Join My Class' form with fields for 'Full Name' (First and Last Name) and 'Phone Number or Email Address' (with a placeholder (000) 555-5555). The bottom screen shows a text message interface with 'To: 81010' and 'Message: @code'.

Academic Integrity Agreement

Please **Read** the Academic Integrity Agreement, **sign**, and **return** one sheet to Mrs. Giusti. Keep a copy in your notebook.

Violations to Academic Integrity Include:

• **Plagiarism: (Actions of a single person):** the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

- **Why people do it?** Because they didn't manage their time wisely and they think that "no one will know." I love a good bit of detective work and I will find out. Usually involves cutting and pasting from the internet.
- **Consequences:** I may give you a chance to re-do the assignment with a significant penalty or it could be as severe as a zero on the assignment and a conference with your parent(s). It depends.
- **How to avoid it:** be aware of due dates, know what your "crazy days" are and schedule time to do your assignments in small bits during the week. Make use of the Plagiarism Checker on my website check your work.

• **Copying: (Actions of 2-4 Persons):** the practice of handing in exact, or near exact, duplicate work. OR The practice changing a word or two on an assignment that you forgot to complete and you convinced a friend into letting you "see what they wrote."

- **Why people do it?** Often mistaken for "working together" in which two or more parties state that they "did the assignment together." If that is the case, your sentences should be unique to each person. Use your OWN words.
- **Consequences:** I usually put "See Me" on the top of the page and we shall have a conversation to determine the consequences. If you become a repeat offender.... Zero, for all parties involved.
- **How to avoid it:** Be a good friend – if someone asks you for your work – DON'T DO IT! Help your friend avoid the uncomfortable feel of having to say no – Instead TALK about the assignment. SEE How to avoid Plagiarism.

• **Sharing: (Actions of 5 or more persons):** Posting completed assignments on social media or through the internet prior to handing in completed work for credit.

- **Why people do it?** (1) You think you are helping (2) to get more than 100 likes (3) You are showing off (4) You don't think anyone will actually download it and hand it in with their name on it. (5) a million other reasons.
- **Consequences:** Zeros for all involved, including the original poster. No exceptions!
- **How to avoid it:** Resist the temptation and think, why should someone else get credit for my work?

Encouraging Academic Integrity

• **Collaboration:** the practice of discussion and debate to work towards understanding OR each party is responsible for a portion of a group assignment. You'll learn how this works during your Elbow Chats and in your Core Groups.

- **Why people do it?** Because it's awesome! Nothing helps you better understand material that a nice conversation. You listen to how other people view the question and shape your own responses.
- **Consequences:** You and your peers create your own interpretation of the material that is unique to you!

Consequences of Academic Integrity Violations

Consequences	Occurrence*			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Parent contact by teacher	✓..	✓..	✓..	✓..
Resubmit work for up to full credit	✓..			
Resubmit work for up to 50% credit		✓..		
Automatic Zero			✓..	✓..
Parent contact by Administration			✓..	✓..
Administration is notified of Academic Integrity violation		✓..	✓..	✓..

* Occurrences involving more than one assignment or occurring in multiple courses may have additional consequences at the discretion of the teacher and administration.