

What is Important in Today's World?

Understanding and Following Current Events

Grades:	7th – 10th
Day of Week:	Monday
Time of Class:	9:00 – 10:30 am ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Winter
High School Credit:	.5 Social Studies / Elective

Class Dates:

Week 1: January 11
Week 2: January 18
Week 3: January 25
Week 4: February 1
Week 5: February 8
Week 6: February 15
Week 7: February 22
Week 8: March 1
Week 9: March 8
Week 10: March 15
Make Up Week: March 22

Instructor's Name:	Jonathan Meola
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Description of Class:

This class is designed to provide students with an opportunity to discuss, understand, and explore political, economic and social issues. These issues may be either local, national, and/or international in scope. All issues will be discussed in a respectful, meaningful, and active way - utilizing both contemporary and historical sources as available. Throughout the term, students will stay up to date on current issues and trends. Because the subjects covered in this class are by their very nature “current and contemporary,” a variety of topics may be covered during the course, depending on the current news cycle.

Class Approach:

Students will be expected to provide worthwhile topics of interest for class discussion. A variety of news sources and selected sources (newspapers, TV news, broadcast radio, podcasts, periodicals, social media/blogs, and webcasts) will be utilized for this class. Students will be challenged to defend their opinions on many different issues.

Goals:

By the end of the course, students will have increased their ability to identify, analyze, and discuss current events issues with both peers and adults, and provide their own opinions on the subjects covered.

Textbook:

None - Articles, handouts, and weblinks will be provided by the instructor.

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

Spiral or ring-binder notebook, pens/pencils for journaling and note-taking during class sessions, folders for storing printouts of articles.

Access to Google News and other online news feeds.

Requirements:

Each member of the class will research a specific current event or issue and present it to the class during the last two weeks of the course term. Presentations will be oral and visual which means some sort of project will need to be utilized during the presentation. A proper research paper will accompany your presentations. Proper citations and a works cited page will be expected.

Weekly Homework:

Students will be expected to spend approximately 45 minutes - 1.5 hours weekly preparing their assignments. This will include reading and viewing source materials.

Homework Policy:

Students who fall behind will have a very difficult time catching up and may struggle with compiling their portfolio and preparing their final project. Please let Jonathan know in advance if any class sessions will be missed, and if any assignment will not be completed, so he can provide proper support as needed.

Additional Policies:

Because our projects and activities involve using computers and the Internet, students will be expected to behave in a safe, encouraging manner while online.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on their participation in class via quizzes, completion of assignments, and submission of a final project, which will consist of both a research paper and class presentation.

Grading Scale:

- A: 90% and above
- B: 80 - 89%
- C: 70 - 79%
- D: 66 - 69%
- F: 65% and below

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction and Course Overview
Week 2	Research Do's and Don'ts - Intro to Analysis
Week 3	Event Discussion and Analysis
Week 4	Event Discussion and Analysis
Week 5	Event Discussion and Analysis
Week 6	Event Discussion and Analysis; Quiz on Content from Weeks 1 - 5
Week 7	Event Discussion and Analysis
Week 8	Event Discussion and Analysis
Week 9	Class Presentations
Week 10	Class Presentations