**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Course Title:** World Investigations – Middle School Elective

**Course Number:** 00101

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** World Investigations introduces students to current events and world issues through a blend of historical context, geography, and current news stories. Students will explore global themes such as politics, culture, economics, environment, and human rights. The course will focus on developing critical thinking, media literacy, research skills, and a greater understanding of world events.

**Suggested Grade Level**: Grades 6-8

**Length of Course:** One Semester

**Units of Credit:** .5

**PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certifications:**

CSPG 70 – Grades 4-8 with 7-8 Social Studies Concentration

CSPG 52 – Middle Level Social Studies 6-9

CSPG 59 – Social Studies 7-12

CSPG 35 – Citizenship Education 7-12

CSPG 104 – Expansion of Secondary (7-12) Certification to Sixth Grade

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Staffing%20Guidelines/Pages/default.aspx)

**Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department:** [x] Yes [ ] No

**WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION**

**Course Level:** Academic

**Mark Types:** Check all that apply.

[x] F – Final Average [x] MP – Marking Period [ ] EXM – Final Exam

**GPA Type**: [ ]  GPAEL-GPA Elementary [x]  GPAML-GPA for Middle Level [ ]  NHS-National Honor Society

[ ]  UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average [ ]  GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

**State Course Code**: 04305

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](https://nces.ed.gov/forum/sced.asp), download the Excel file for *SCED*, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and choose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

**TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**Board Approved Textbooks, Software, and Materials:**

**Title:**  N/A

**Publisher:** N/A

**ISBN #:**  N/A

**Copyright Date:** N/A

**WCSD Board Approval Date:** N/A

**Supplemental Materials:** Multimedia resources: online news sources, educational websites, documentaries, podcasts; Field trips to relevant historical sites or museums; Content specific videos/video clips from Swank, PBS, YouTube or other WCSD approved source

**Curriculum Document**

**WCSD Board Approval:**

**Date Finalized:** 5/1/2024

**Date Approved:**  6/10/2024

**Implementation Year:** 2024/2025

**SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, and GIFTED REQUIREMENTS**

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP), Chapter 15 Section 504 Plan (504), and/or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF CONTENT AND CONCEPTS**

**Marking Period 1**

Introduction to World Events and Media Literacy

Global Geography and Key Countries

Global Politics and Governments

Global Economy and Trade

**Marking Period 2**

Global Environment and Climate Change

Human Rights and Social Justice

Science, Technology, and Innovation

Global Culture and the Arts

**Marking Period 3**

See MP1

**Marking Period 4**

See MP2

**Standards/Eligible Content and Skills**

| **Performance Indicator** | **PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content** | **Marking Period Taught**  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Explain what a current event is. | CC.8.5.6-8.D | MP1 MP3  |
| Identify accurate and verifiable news content. | CC.8.5.6-8.B,F,H | MP1 MP3  |
| Identify bias and reliability. | 5.1.8.F5.3.8.H8.1.8.A,BCC.8.5.8.F,G,H,I | MP1 MP3  |
| Identify global geography and key countries that frequently appear in world news. | 7.1.8.A7.2.8.A7.4.8.A,B | MP1 MP3  |
| Evaluate how geography influences current events. | 7.1.8.A,B7.2.8.A7.3.8.A7.4.8.A,B8.4.8.B,C | MP1 MP3  |
| Examine different forms of government and evaluate their impact on global events. | 5.1.8.B5.2.8.A,B5.3.8.J5.4.8.A,B6.3.8.B,D8.1.8.A8.4.8.A-D | MP1 MP3  |
| Examine recent elections and political events. | 5.2.8.A,D5.3.8.H8.4.8.CCC.8.5.6-8.G | MP1 MP3  |
| Debate current political issues from multiple perspectives. | 5.3.8.G5.4.8.DCC.8.5.6-8.D,H,I | MP1 MP3  |
| Identify basic economic concepts and recognize the importance of global trade. | 5.4.8.B6.1.8.A-D6.2.8.A-G6.4.8.A,B,C | MP1 MP3  |
| Examine the concept of globalization and its benefits/downsides. | 5.4.8.A6.4.8.A-D7.3.8.A | MP1 MP3  |
| Investigate current economic events. | 6.1.8.A,B6.2.8.A,C,E,F6.3.8.A-D | MP1 MP3  |

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| Examine environmental issues and the impact of climate change. | 7.1.8.A,B7.2.8.A7.3.8.A7.4.8.BCC.8.5.6-8.G,H | MP2 MP4  |
| Evaluate international efforts to address climate change. | 5.4.8.D6.4.8.C | MP2 MP4  |
| Explain the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its implications. | 5.2.8.A,B5.4.8.A,B,C6.3.8.D6.4.8.C8.4.8.A,BCC.8.5.6-8.A,B,E | MP2MP4 |
| Examine human rights issues and social justice movements around the world. | 5.4.8.A-D7.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.4.8.A-DCC.8.5.6-8.F,G | MP2 MP4 |
| Evaluate the role of science and technology in shaping current events. | 6.2.8.F,G6.3.8.B6.4.8.C,D6.5.8.C8.4.8.CCC.8.5.6-8.F,G | MP2 MP4  |
| Analyze different cultures and their traditions, art, music, and literature. | 7.3.8.A8.4.8.A-DCC.8.5.6-8.F,G | MP2 MP4  |
| Examine how cultural exchange impacts global understanding. | 5.2.8.A-D5.4.8.A-D6.3.8.D6.4.8.B,C,D7.3.8.A8.4.8.A-DCC.8.5.6-8.B | MP2 MP4  |
| Investigate how art and media reflect or influence current events. | 5.3.8.H6.2.8.C7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.4.8.BCC.8.5.6-8.F,G | MP2 MP4  |
| Produce an organized product on an assigned current event thatpresents and reflects on a thesis statement and appropriate primary and secondary sources. | CC.8.5.6-8.GCC.8.6.6-8.A-I | MP1 MP2MP3 MP4 |
| Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.  | CC.8.5.6-8.D  | MP1 MP2MP3 MP4 |

**ASSESSMENTS**

**PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content:** The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content and incorporate them regularly into planned instruction.

**Formative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to conduct in-process evaluations of student learning.

**Effective formative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

* Journal Entry
* Entry/Exit Ticket
* Thinking Map
* Verbal Explanation
* Observation
* Artifacts
* Reflection/Summary
* Quiz

**Summative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional task, lesson, and/or unit.

**Effective summative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

* Writing a Paper/Essay
* Performance Tasks
* Project
* Tests
* Portfolio