

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLANNED INSTRUCTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Title: Contemporary Domestic Issues

Course Number: 00176

Course Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed to explore major issues in American society today. This course will be built around debates, research projects, small and large group discussions that are designed to make students actively think about the issues in society. Students will confront alternative points of view on a broad spectrum of issues and will be encouraged to debate these issues and form their own opinions. Students taking this course must keep up with current events through the use of magazines, newscasts, radio shows, newspapers, and the Internet. This course is intended to provide students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through the use of media to gain information and then to relate that information to help them make informed decisions on aspects of American society. The core themes for this course will focus on the Social, Political, Economic, and Cultural aspects of life in the US. Likely topics include, but are not limited to: poverty/wealth gap, abuse issues (drug, alcohol, domestic), race relations, immigration, human rights, and environmental issues. The course standards will be covered each month based on the news stories available at the moment.

Suggested Grade Level: Grades 10-12

Length of Course: One Semester

Units of Credit: .5

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

CSPG 59 Social Studies

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](#)

Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department: ☒ Yes ☐ No

WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION

Course Level: Academic

Mark Types: Check all that apply.

☒ F – Final Average ☒ MP – Marking Period ☒ EXM – Final Exam

GPA Type: ☐ GPAEL-GPA Elementary ☐ GPAML-GPA for Middle Level ☒ NHS-National Honor Society

☒ UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average ☒ GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

State Course Code: 04106

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](#), download the Excel file for SCED, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and choose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

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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: Various resources such as (but not limited to): Local and National Newspapers; Opposing Viewpoints; YouTube; Internet sites – The Choices Program; AllSides, CNN10, Axios, The Week, PBS, NPR News; Podcasts; Newsela; Content specific videos/video clips from Swank, YouTube, PBS or other WCSD approved source

Curriculum Document

WCSD Board Approval:

Date Finalized: 5/23/2022
Date Approved: 6/13/2022
Date Revised: 6/10/2024
Implementation Year: 2022-2023

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

Investigating the Media

Current Events Issues:

- Social
- Economical
- Political
- Cultural

Marking Period 2

Current Events Issues:

- Social
- Economical
- Political
- Cultural

Marking Period 3

Investigating the Media

Current Events Issues:

- Social
- Economical
- Political
- Cultural

Marking Period 4

Current Events Issues:

- Social
- Economical
- Political
- Cultural

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Standards/Eligible Content and Skills

Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Analyze and assess the validity of news sources.	CC.8.5.11-12.A-C,F-I C.2.4.3.1	MP1 MP3
Investigate how the media can steer our view of current issues.	CC.8.5.11-12.F-I C.2.4.3.1	MP1 MP3
Analyze major social issues in the United States.	8.1.12.B 8.3.12.A-D 7.4.12.B	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Analyze major economic issues in the United States.	8.1.12.B 6.1.12.A-D 6.2.12.A-G 6.3.12.A-D 6.4.12.A-D 6.5.12.A-H	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Analyze major political issues in the United States.	8.1.12.B 5.1.12.A,C,D 5.2.12.A-D 5.3.12.A-J 5.4.12.A-E	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Analyze major cultural issues in the United States.	8.1.12.B 7.3.12.A 7.4.12.B	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Explain current events and the effect of the current event issue on the United States as a whole and on the various regions in the United States.	8.1.12.A,B 7.1.12.A,B 7.2.12.A 7.3.12.A 7.4.12.A,B 6.1.12.A-D 6.2.12.A-G 6.3.12.A-D 6.4.12.A-D 6.5.12.A-H 5.1.12.A,C,D 5.2.12.A-D 5.3.12.A-J 5.4.12.A-E	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Present opinions on current events issues.	8.1.12.B,C	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Identify main ideas in print, audio, and visual media sources.	CC.9.5.11-12.A-I	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Employ analytical skills to evaluate primary and secondary sources related to current event issues.	8.1.12.B	MP1 MP3
Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.	CC.8.5.11-12.A	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4

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Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and idea.	CC.8.5.11-12.B	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.	CC.8.5.11-12.C	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).	CC.8.5.11-12.D	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Analyze in detail how a complex primary source is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole.	CC.8.5.11-12.E	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.	CC.8.5.11-12.F	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.	CC.8.5.11-12.G	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information .	CC.8.5.11-12.H	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources .	CC.8.5.11-12.I	MP2 MP4
By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 11-CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently.	CC.8.5.11-12.J	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.	CC.8.6.11-12.A	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.	CC.8.6.11-12.B	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	CC.8.6.11-12.C	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.	CC.8.6.11-12.D	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4

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Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.	CC.8.6.11-12.E	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.	CC.8.6.11-12.F	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.	CC.8.6.11-12.G	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research.	CC.8.6.11-12.H	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	CC.8.6.11-12.I	MP1 MP2 MP3 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:

- Marking Period Assessment/Final Exam
- Writing a Paper/Essay
- Performance Tasks
- Project
- Tests
- Portfolio