

GLOBAL ISSUES

PLACER HIGH



CLASSROOM POLICIES

Welcome to Global Issues. This interdisciplinary course is intended to provide you with an opportunity to explore global issues, including history, economics, politics, ethics, art, literature, and more—with a concentration on environmental concerns. After completing this course successfully, you should be “globally literate” and be able to give an informed statement about most any global topic.

To facilitate this, we’ll be focusing on critical and reflective reading and writing, effective debate and discussion techniques, and creative problem-solving. To put it another way, you will be expected to read, write, and talk. A lot. Since this is a collaborative classroom environment, you can expect to work and explore in groups often. In consideration of this, please take note of the following:

Every student adds value to this classroom. Differing personalities, backgrounds, learning styles, life experiences, senses of humor, etc. are viewed as assets to be celebrated and respected. Exposure to different ways of thinking is crucial to developing the creative critical thinker within. Respect others as you would hope to be respected.

UNITS OF STUDY

Because of the interdisciplinary focus of the class, we will be exploring various topics. There are four major units of study, within which many smaller subunits overlap. The following is a fluid—not rigid—outline of the class. Expect some changes within each major unit as the class progresses.

Unit 1: Essential Human Needs

- ☞ Defining Global Issues and Sustainability
- ☞ Food, Water, and Energy

Unit 2: Our Collective Impact

- ☞ Population, Consumption, Climate Change, Biodiversity

Unit 3: Health and Well-Being

- ☞ Quality of Life, Governance, Human Rights, Human Migration

Unit 4: The Global Economy

- ☞ Economics, Poverty, Globalization, Community Development

Every subunit (or chapter) ends with a short traditional test, and each of the four major units concludes with a Performance-Based Assessment. This usually means you will work alone on some aspect of the assessment and in a group for other portions. Expect research papers, group projects and presentations, action plans, and reflective writing, all rolled into a portfolio-style package.

GRADING

Papers/Projects/Presentations = 40%

Tests/Quizzes = 30%

Quick-Writes/In-Class Assignments = 20%

Preparedness/Participation = 10%

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

NC = 59% and below

SUPPLIES

Please be sure you bring the following to class everyday:

- ✍ Binder/notebook/folder with paper and a writing utensil
- 📖 Textbook (this actually stays at home, but you'll read from it every week)
- 🧠 An open mind

ATTENDANCE & HOMEWORK

Do not be tardy. Please make every effort to be in class and in your seat when the bell rings. Any missed work will not be accepted without a note from another teacher or parent. Cuts will result in a grade reduction for all missed work. Absences are your responsibility to clear. You have as many days as missed to turn in work for full credit.

If you miss an assignment or due-date because of an excused absence, all work is due upon your return. Please remember that it is *your responsibility* to find out what you missed while absent. Likewise, if you miss a lecture or discussion during which notes were taken, it is your responsibility to copy the notes from someone else in class *on your own time*. Any late work not turned in simply because it was not completed on time will result in a 10% reduction in grade every day it is late (down to 50%).