

## Current Events/Global Issues

**Synopsis:** This course focuses the development of media literacy, knowledge-building, and the critical analysis of global events. It has two components. First, it surveys current events on the global-level through the use of CNN Student News. Second, it focuses on specific global issues. These issues are organized by region. Examples include the Japanese Nuclear Power Debate and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

**Time Required:** A two hour session twice a week.

**Credit Value:** A half-credit class. This class will contain 5 units and a final project.

### Materials Needed:

- Dry-Erase Board/ Chalkboard
- Projector/PowerPoint
- One notebook for each student
- A publishing program for the final project
- Access to internet for video clips, websites for class display, electronic research
- Students will need access to a publishing program and electronic resources for research

### Daily Class Structure:

- 1. Watch CNN Student News Clip (10 min).**
  - a. CNN produces a free 10 minute news clip daily, which is targeted toward teenagers. We will begin every class by watching the latest clip. This will allow students to get a sampling of current global events as they are happening. I want the students to have continuity with global events as the events develop. I believe this is important because the rest of the class is structured around taking a focused look at selected topics in global issues.
- 2. Silent Journal Time (5 min).**
  - a. Students will spend 5 minutes journaling in response to a specific prompt. This prompt will focus on issues brought up in the CNN Student News clip for the day. The exercise is intended to give students a chance to think about what is going on in the world and form their own opinions on current global issues. This short essay will also serve to prepare students for a class discussion over the prompt.
- 3. Class Discussion of Current Events (10-15 min).**
  - a. Students will be asked to share their responses with the class. Students will be asked to share their thoughts and opinions. Students will be encouraged to ask questions about the topics being discussed. I will have questions prepared to guide discussion, should student contributions flatten out the discussion.
- 4. Unit Check Point (5 min).**
  - a. At this point in the class I will check make sure students have adequately prepared for class. Students will present their homework for the class and I will check for adequate

completion. Students will be consistently expected to do readings, homework assignments outside of class. Occasionally, students will be expected to study for quizzes or work on projects outside of class. Specific expectations will be communicated clearly to students. Students should expect to do about 30 minutes to an hour of homework for each time the class meets.

**5. Topic of the Day Introduced (time required varies).**

- a. I will transition into the topic for the day. This will usually include a short lecture in order to give background or context to the topic of the day. It will also serve to deliver instructions for the coming discussion or activity.

**6. Lecture/Reading/Class Activity (specified within unit )(45 min-1 hour).**

**7. Homework Help (with the time remaining).**

- a. I will always build in time at the end of each session to assign, explain, and communicate my expectations for the homework necessary to be completed for the next class. Students may use anytime remaining to work on their homework. I will provide whatever assistance required.

**Course Outline:**

**1. Unit 1: Europe**

- **Session 1: Eurozone Crisis of Confidence**
  - **Introduction to Current Events/Global Issues**
  - **CNN Student News Clip**
  - **Silent Journal Time**
  - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
  - **Unit Check Point**
  - **Lecture**
    - **European Union**
    - **European Monetary Zone**
    - **European Debt Crisis**
    - **European Crisis of Confidence**
  - **Homework Help**

**2. Unit 2: Asia**

- **Session 1: Japan: Nuclear Energy Debate**
  - **CNN Student News Clip**
  - **Silent Journal Time**
  - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
  - **Unit Check Point**
  - **Lecture**
    - **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**
    - **Fukushima Disaster**
  - **Class Activity: Pro's and Con's of Nuclear Power**
  - **Homework Help**

- **Session 2: China : An Emerging World Power**
  - **CNN Student News Clip**
  - **Silent Journal Time**
  - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
  - **Unit Check Point**
  - **Lecture**
    - **Brief History of China**
    - **Chairman Mao**
    - **Tiananmen Square**
    - **Hong Kong**
  - **Class Activity: Individual Topic Research Project**
  - **Homework Help**
  
- **Session 3: China: An Emerging World Power**
  - **Lab time for Individual Topic Research Project**
  - **Individual Topic Research Project Presentations**
- 3. Unit 3: The Americas**
  - **Session 1: Mexico: Migration and Internal Instability**
    - **CNN Student News Clip**
    - **Silent Journal Time**
    - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
    - **Unit Check Point**
    - **Class Activity: Perspective-Taking Jigsaw Activity**
    - **Class Discussion**
    - **Homework Help**
  - **Session 2: Brazil: Alternative Energy**
- 4. Unit 4: Africa**
  - **Session 1: International HIV/AIDS Pandemic**
    - **CNN Student News Clip**
    - **Silent Journal Time**
    - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
    - **Unit Check Point**
    - **Lecture**
    - **Documentary**
    - **Homework Help**
  - **Session 2: The Post-Colonial Legacy of Ethnic Cleansing**
    - **CNN Student News Clip**
    - **Silent Journal Time**
    - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
    - **Unit Check Point**
    - **Lecture**

- **Primary Source Activity**
- **Homework Help**
- 5. Unit 5: Middle East**
  - **Session 1: The Arab Spring**
    - **CNN Student News Clip**
    - **Silent Journal Time**
    - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
    - **Unit Check Point**
    - **Lecture**
    - **Class Activity: Political Cartoon Essay Activity**
    - **Homework Help**
  - **Session 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**
    - **CNN Student News Clip**
    - **Silent Journal Time**
    - **Class Discussion of Current Events**
    - **Unit Check Point**
    - **Lecture**
    - **Class Activity: Simulation**
    - **Class Discussion**
    - **Homework Help**
- 6. Unit 6: Final Project: Class publishes a Global Issues Magazine**
  - **Session 1: Computer Lab time**
  - **Session 2: Computer Lab time**

**Grading Criteria:**

- **Unit Checkpoints (Homework Completion)**
- **Class Discussion**
- **Participation**
- **Class Projects**
- **Class Activity Products**
- **Final Project**