



Current Affairs Grand Haven High School



Course Number: C66
Grade Level: All
Credits : .5
Prerequisite Courses : None

Course Description

Current Affairs examines the latest in world, national, state, and local news, using a variety of media from newspapers and magazines to television, the internet and political cartoons. Course work includes group discussions, writing summaries and editorials, interpreting political cartoons, and individual and group projects on various topics from the news. One of the primary objectives of this course is to develop skills for analyzing controversial issues and the effect of the media's presentation of those issues.

Course Objectives

1. This class is designed so that you can discuss, analyze, and form logical opinions on current issues. Class participation is essential to meeting this goal.
2. We will have discussions on a daily basis in this class. Your thoughts and opinions will be heard. Please use common sense in these discussions and wait your turn to voice your logical opinion.
3. All assignments will be due on the due date. Late work will be accepted for half credit. Please refer to your student handbook regarding late work and makeup opportunities.
4. We will be spending the bulk of our time on focused discussions, reading, and writing. If you are taking this class because you think that it will be a "blow off", or feel that you may lack the self-discipline to perform any of these tasks, please adjust your final grade expectations accordingly.
5. Please review our student handbook if you have any questions on cheating. "Better to fail with honor than succeed by fraud."

Student Expectations

Required Materials: Writing utensil
70 page spiral notebook Attendance

Building Behavioral Expectations

TEAM GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

GO BUCS

Attendance

1. Class begins with the second tone. You are expected to be in your seats and ready to begin class. (I used to teach freshmen all day. Much more will be expected of you because this class is open to all grades as an elective.) Please see your student handbook regarding our school attendance policy.

Behavior

1. Please see your student handbook regarding our behavior policy.
2. Respect will be evident in words and actions in this class.
3. No "Put-downs" in class please.
4. There will be only one person speaking at a time in class. Especially in the discussion portion of the class.
5. Use humor sparingly in class. Always be mindful of the feelings of others before an attempt at humor is made.
6. Gum and water are allowed. The student handbook leaves this to the discretion of the teacher. Don't abuse this policy. Please no other food or drink in the classroom.
7. Cell phones... Turn them off or leave them in your locker. If they go off in class I take them and give them back at the end of the day. If I have to take the device twice in the same trimester, I simply turn it over to administration.
8. No sleeping in class! If you're sick... go home. Come prepared to participate in class and get involved in your education. This is not a spectator sport!

Communication

Phone: 850-6236

Email: Thomas@ghaps.org

Grading Policy

- 80% of your grade will be summative in nature (tests and quizzes).
 - 20% of your grade will be formative in nature (participation and homework).
- Grading Scale

Graded Assignments

Current Events Discussion Preparation

Topic Papers

5 Paragraph Essays

In-Class Assignments

Class Participation

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Grading Scale

100 - 92 A
91 - 90 A-
89 - 88 B+
87 - 82 B
81 - 80 B-
79 - 78 C+
77 - 72 C
71 - 70 C-
69 - 68 D+
67 - 62 D
61 - 60 D-
59 - 0 F

Scope and Sequence

Topics

1. Politics
2. Drugs / Prisons / Crime
3. Abortion / Euthanasia / Capital Punishment
4. Science / Technology / Environment
5. World Conflict / Terrorism
6. School Issues / Health Care

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