

Melrose High School Syllabus

Department: Social Studies

Course Title: 393 Current Events

Course Description: This elective Social Studies course will use a wide range of strategies to explore the world today. Using both historical events and modern technology, students will investigate a wide range of social, political, and economic issues to find a better understanding of Melrose, Massachusetts, our nation, and the world as a whole.

MHS Learning Expectations:

- Write effectively using standard written English.
- Demonstrate the ability to read effectively.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.
- Demonstrate good citizenship.
- Demonstrate an understanding of tolerance and diversity, and respect for themselves, others and their school.

Essential Questions:

- How can a young adult actively participate in ongoing world events?
- Why is important to be an informed and active participant of your community?

<p><u>Students will know:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● How to use news sources to learn more about the world around them.● How to navigate bias and perspective in order to study a topic objectively.● How to defend a perspective different from their own.● How to discuss a variety of viewpoints respectfully and academically.● How to participate in their communities as active and informed citizens.	<p><u>Students will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Examine current events through the lens of major course themes● Investigate different viewpoints encountered and determine whether and how to incorporate or reject these viewpoints.● More actively understand and analyze ongoing issues on a local, national, and global scale.● Properly place today's issues into historical context.
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Course Outline:

In addition to analyzing and following developing stories, this course will also examine several overarching themes that shape not only media, but the world today. These themes will include: bias and perspective, forms and styles of journalism, citizenship, civil rights, socioeconomic conditions, politics, and education. Throughout this year, we will look at these themes through both historical and modern lenses.

Primary Course Materials:

Students in Current Events should have a designated Current Events folder and notebook. Students may be asked to turn in pages from their notebooks, so spiral bound notebooks or loose leaf paper in binders are preferred. There is no textbook for this class, sources will include newspapers, online resources and new media found both at school and at home.

Major Assignments and Grading:

The major assignments for this course will be primarily based on both short term and long term research projects. Working in both groups and individually, students will use a variety of media sources to find a better understanding of the world in which they live.

The grades for each term will be determined based upon class participation, class discussion, homework, and student work on both long and short term assignments.

Midyear & Final Exams: Midyear and Final Exams will be given. These exams count as 10% of the respective semester grade. The average of the first and second quarter grades will count 90% in determining the first semester average. Similarly, the second semester average will include the average of third and fourth quarter grades at 90% and final exam at 10%. The average for the entire year will be the average of both semesters. Senior students will be asked to complete a final assessment at the end of both the third and fourth quarter.

Q1 = 22.5% Q2 = 22.5% Midterm = 5% Q3 = 22.5% Q4 = 22.5% Final = 5%