

Canyon Crest Academy: Current Issues

Level of Difficulty	Estimated Homework	Prerequisites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult <input type="checkbox"/> Very Difficult	0-30 minutes	District None Department Recommended for students in 11 th or 12 th grade and that reading and writing abilities at grade level. Interest in the Social Sciences, or in careers such as legal professions (lawyer), journalism, business, education

Course Description

Course topics and outline can be found in "Supplemental Information" below.

The purpose of the Current Issues course is to provide students the opportunity to examine some of the ongoing issues facing both the United States and the world today. The aim of the course is not so much to follow daily news reports as it is to examine both the antecedents of contemporary issues and the implications of these issues for both foreign and domestic policies and programs today. This course is designed as part of a comprehensive Social Science program and specifically complements all core academic requirements, especially in terms of helping meet goals established by the California Common Core Literacy Standards. This course is particularly helpful for students who are taking AP English Language and Composition. Additionally, the course is designed as part of an overall career/college development program for students wishing to major in such fields as journalism, law, public programs, psychology, political science, or the visual/performing arts. Work is largely research and project based, with an emphasis on the incorporation of technology and multimedia. Much of this work is scheduled for in-class time. Students should not expect more than 30-minutes of homework on any given night.

Grading

Teachers employ variations of either the weighted or the cumulative method for determining grades. However, the following scale is used to determine the final grade:

100% to 90% A; 89% to 80% B; 79% to 70% C; 69% to 60% D; 59% and below F

Syllabus Link

Refer to individual teacher websites.

Supplemental Information

10 credits

Meets high school graduation requirement for elective

Topics in this course include:

Some of the topics presented in the course include:

–Research and analyze Criminal Justice, both locally and nationally. Topics include capital punishment, the U.S. penal system, police brutality and race relations, and three-strikes laws.

- Analyze the role of Civil Liberties and Media in the United States, including topics relating to the PATRIOT Act, freedom of speech, media bias, net neutrality, intellectual property and piracy,
- Discuss and debate contemporary issues in American politics, including political campaigns (current or recent), Citizens United, lobbying, term limits, immigration reform, voter ID laws, influence of political parties.
- Evaluate the condition of socioeconomic concerns in the United States and generate policy recommendations to deal with social welfare issues, such as wealth inequality, tax policy, outsourcing of American jobs, and Social Security.
- Research, discuss and debate current controversial issues in medicine, science, and environmental studies. Topics include euthanasia, cloning and stem cell research, drug patent laws, universal healthcare, environmental degradation, United States energy policy.
- Describe the challenges facing United States' Foreign Policy, particularly with regard to domestic security. Special emphasis is placed on dealing with international terroristic threats from groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS.
- Analyze contemporary events as they occur, exploring immediate and long-term consequences.