

SOCIAL ISSUES

~Course Outline~



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves to introduce and elaborate knowledge on social justice issues within present-day society. While learning about these issues, students will also be learning how to make a positive change in their world and community. This class will focus on a variety of issues in society ranging from topics including racial injustice, women's rights, poverty, world hunger, COVID-19, BLM, environmental issues, socio-economic status, gender issues, media bias, and many more topics.

This class will consist of a major research project where students can pick an issue they are passionate in. Students will also participate in community service activities to help people in our local community. This class will be discussion heavy in a positive learning environment where all students have a safe place to express their thoughts on these issues.

CLASS RULES

The number one main rule in this class is that it is a **safe place**. We must be respectful of every single person in this class, and their opinions.

During the first week of school, we will come up with a class contract that has specific rules and consequences to ensure this safe place is created.

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COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- ★ The MCS Code of Conduct must be followed at all times.
- ★ Respect yourself, others, the teachers, and all MCS property.
- ★ Help us maintain a positive learning environment.
- ★ Put forth your best effort each class period.
- ★ Take responsibility for your actions.
- ★ be on time, prepared, and ready to learn! All students must have their Chromebooks charged for every single class period.

COURSE TOPICS AND OUTLINE

Due to the ever-changing society, the course topics and units are subject to change. However, there will be a few assignments, projects, and topics that will remain consistent.

1. Media Bias: what is a good source?
2. Inequality: what does this mean?
3. Impact of COVID-19
4. Racial Injustice: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, BLM, etc.
5. Poverty/Wage Gaps/Socio-Economic: Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, etc.
6. Environmental Issues: Flint, MI
7. Women's Rights & LGBTQ+

SOCIAL ISSUES

~MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS~



RESEARCH PROJECT

- ★ Students will pick a societal issue they are interested in (*that is pre-approved by the teacher*) to complete a research project on. We will work on this project throughout the entire course.
- ★ Students will complete a research essay, as well as a research project in the form of a poster, infographic, PSA video, or anything else they can think of. Finally, students must present their project.

FOR ADMIN PURPOSES ONLY:

- ★ The purpose of this research PBL segment is to allow the students to deeply explore a topic that they are interested in.
- ★ This will help them develop basic research skills to help prepare them for future academic endeavors, in a learning environment that is not a core class.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

- ★ As a class, we will pick an issue we see in our community together.
- ★ Then, we will make a plan to try and address this issue.
- ★ Depending on the nature of the world and COVID restrictions, we can do a variety of activities ranging from a coat drive, food drive, peer tutoring, fundraising for a cause, etc.

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~MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS~



UNITED NATIONS SIMULATION PROJECT

- ★ Over several classes, we will hold mock United Nations meetings.
- ★ Each student will be assigned a country to represent. They must research that country, and be prepared to take their perspective.
- ★ Then, each class period, we will discuss a world issue from these perspectives.
- ★ Each discussion will be followed by a reflective writing assignment.

JOURNAL PROMPTS

- ★ Due to the sensitive topics that may be discussed in this class, the students journal will be there “go to” for personal reflection.
- ★ After learning about various different examples of injustice within our society, students will have the opportunity to independently write about what they learned. There will be a variety of writing prompts for students to select from.
- ★ This assignment will help hone in student’s academic writing skills as well.

GRADING CRITERIA

- ★ 30%- Participation
- ★ 30%- Projects
- ★ 20%- Assignments
- ★ 20%- Research Project
- PLEASE NOTE: This is not just one singular project, but all of the assignments leading up to the final project. For example, students have to submit drafts, a list of their sources, peer edit, etc. which all fall under this 20% category.