



Reynolds High School

CURRENT EVENTS

Building Relationships for Academic Success

Instructor: Jeffrey Fuller

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Room Number: 519

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All PPTs, Readings, and Assignments will be available on Schoology.

Required Textbooks/Materials: Computer, notebook and/or 3-ring binder, pen/pencil, highlighter, folder for Current Events work, and planner. Most of this can be done on your Chromebook/computer.

Course Description

This class is designed to provide students with the opportunity to discuss, understand, and explore local, national, international, political, economic and social issues in a respectful, meaningful, and active way. Throughout the term, students will stay up to date on current issues and trends. Because the subject of this class is “contemporary,” topics will vary considerably depending on the current news cycle. Students will be challenged to defend their opinions on many different issues.

In order to understand the world and community in which we live, to participate in it successfully and knowledgeably, and to understand and empathize with others’ experiences, we will be diving into a variety of issues and events as they present themselves. We will also carve out time to focus on a few large on-going issues or underlying issues that tend to drive much of what we see happening around us and the world.

Understanding the world around you will help you to become stronger, better-informed citizens and participants in our democratic society.

Adequate study of the stories and events that impact women, immigrants, and diverse racial and ethnic groups forces us to face difficult truths, and it would surprise me if you were not offended at some point during the year over content we cover or by fellow classmates’ opinions. That’s okay. Some discomfort helps us learn and understand our world, and it helps us think through and challenge our own opinions and beliefs. Current events includes all sorts of controversial topics, from ideals of freedom, justice, and equal treatment for all, to discrimination and violence against specific groups of people; from the day-to-day political rhetoric, to laws that empower as well as laws that strip people of their rights. If you have specific concerns, please speak with me privately.

Course Requirements

Your goal is to demonstrate proficiency on key learning targets throughout the term. To do that, you must show understanding of the material as well as demonstrate an ability to apply specified key concepts and skills on assignments.

You will have the opportunity to accomplish this in a combination of manners: near daily journal writes, classwork/homework, POWER, and exams/projects.

I put a lot of emphasis on effort. I can be flexible and will happily work with you, but you must *communicate and show effort*. **If you are struggling, please contact me! I can help!**

Grading Policy Description

I want you to learn and your grade should reflect your ability to learn from your mistakes. You may, therefore, **redo assignments (or parts of assignments) as many times as you want/need** up to one week after the unit completion.

<u>Assessment type</u>	<u>Percent of final grade</u>
Classwork (in-class work such as jigsaws)	15%
Homework (most assignments fall here but you will be given class time to complete most of it)	35%
Major assessments (exams/papers/projects)	40%
POWER (journals, etc.)	10%

Letter Grade Description & Percentage Breakdown

Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Description
	A	The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered.
	B	The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level.
	C	The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level.
	D	The student does not understand the course content and a minimum of course objectives are met.
	F	The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit.

Homework Policy

Ample class time will be given to complete most work at school, assuming you use your time wisely and do not procrastinate. As such, beyond basic studying and reviewing notes, little work will need to be taken home unless you have missed class for one reason or another. In such an instance, **you must come see me to get the work and so we can discuss a reasonable due date.**

If you are struggling with any work, please reach out to me. I can help you with it OR, depending on the circumstances, find an alternative solution. But that depends on your willingness to reach out.

Late Work Policy

All grades will go into the gradebook as assignments are due. If your work is late, it will be a zero until turned in. If you regularly turn work in late, I will stop grading it until after we speak and you have served the penalty*. Late work from you means extra work for me. It takes a lot longer to go back and grade something that I graded for everyone else two weeks prior. As such, I cannot promise late work will be graded the same as work that was turned in on time. *I stop accepting late work from any one unit one week after the unit is completed.*

*The penalty for unexcused late work is that you will owe me a ½ hour “detention” before I will grade it. During that detention, you will sit in my room and work on classwork for Current Events or another class. If you have no work, you may read a book. You may NOT be on your cellphone or smartwatch.

If you are absent a day (or more), you must come see me at an appropriate time on your first day back to school to get missed work and discuss an appropriate due date for any missed assignments. I am reasonable and happy to work with you, but can only help if you talk with me.

Course Schedule/Outline of Units

We will do our best to stick to this basic calendar. Unexpected school closures, unexpected events that happen in our country that demand our attention/discussion, and your needs may force changes in the schedule. And sometimes we just get behind.

Month	Topic
September	Intro to Current Events How to ask Essential Questions Student chosen current event/topic
October	The 2024 Election Student chosen current event/topic
November	Sociology Intro Student chosen current event/topic
December	Human Differences and Why They Matter Student chosen current event/topic
January	How Social Systems Affect Us Student chosen current event/topic
February	Differing Cultures, Differing Understanding Student chosen current event/topic
March	Social Structures and You Student chosen current event/topic
April	The Physical Environment Student chosen current event/topic
May	Social Interaction Student chosen current event/topic
June	Wrap it Up
Large, overarching topics as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different Ideas of Human Rights (who deserves them and who doesn't)• US Role in a Changing World• A Changing Nation• Climate Change

Plagiarism and Cheating

As per the Student Handbook:

“Students are expected to do their own work and cite the work of others as appropriate. Plagiarism is the willful presentation of someone else’s previously written, published, or copyrighted material as one’s own. Such material may include work that appears in print, online, or in audio or video formats. Copying work from someone else may be regarded as plagiarism if done without consent and if credit is not given to the original writer. Penalties for cheating and/or plagiarism may include but not limited to: failing the assignment in question, failing the course or project, failing the semester, or being subject to further disciplinary action. Reynolds High School staff may choose, at its discretion, to employ plagiarism-detecting software.

“Students are expected to live up to their responsibilities as academic members of this school. They must attend all classes on time. All absences affect learning, regardless of the reason. Students, who miss even a small portion of class, lose out on a significant amount of learning. It is a student’s responsibility to make up any assigned work.”

Plagiarism and/or cheating will result in an automatic zero for the assignment. Repeated plagiarism and/or cheating will result in further action involving parents and the administration.

Class Expectations

Letter	Stands For	What that means in Fuller’s classroom?
P	Prepared & Punctual	When the bell rings, you should be at your seat. Your phone should be stowed in the locker, earbuds should be put away, and your notebook should be out.
O	Organized	I will keep Schoology updated so you can know what is going on in class even if you miss. You should keep your planner updated, a notebook for notes and journals, and a folder for Current Events.
W	Writers	We will keep a near daily journal to start class. We will also do some research that you will need to respond to in writing.
E	Engaged	We will regularly share our thoughts in small groups/with neighbors and as a whole class. Engaged means focusing your attention on me or your classmates when they are talking, participating in group work, and asking questions.
R	Respectful	<p>You are young adults and I would prefer to treat you as such. That means be respectful of other’s opinions (even if you think those opinions are ugly), and basically treat one another as you would want them to treat you. <i>Please do not make me treat you like freshman.</i> That also means to be understanding of differences (religion, race, sexuality, political persuasion, etc.). We will not always agree. You and I will disagree, and you will disagree with your classmates. That is fine. It is part of the democratic process and part of the learning process. That said, <u>intolerance will not be tolerated.</u></p> <p>Respect also means giving your full attention to the class. That means no phones and no earbuds.</p>

CURRENT EVENTS

Please read and sign.

I have read and agree to abide by the policies outlined in Mr. Fuller's syllabus.

Student name (printed)

Student signature	Date
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Parent/guardian name (printed)

Parent/guardian signature	Date
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