

Current Events

Mr. Michael Shaw

Highland Park Senior High School Room 2209

PLC: A-Day 4th Hour, Prep: B-Day 1st Hour

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Current Events:

The goal of a current events course is for the student to become aware of the major issues of the day and to have an in depth understanding and appreciation of current events. Students will utilize the skills of Thinking and Writing Like Historians; and the focus of the class will be issues that affect student lives of today and as adults tomorrow. The class will follow daily news events and will be expected to understand the social, political and economic issues on a daily basis. Students will identify and discuss the connections between current events and other school content, enhance the student's understanding of world events, and become informed citizens.

Units of Study

Unit 1: Different Levels of News Coverage

What are the different levels of news coverage?

Unit 2: Bias and misinformation.

Does news reporting respond to or avoid bias?

Text-Class Resources

Newsela-District current events on-line application (through Clever APP on IPAD)

On-line publications as available

I. Methods of assessment:

Students will engage in a summative assessment for each unit, which will show knowledge of the content studied. Examples of summative assessment can include: exams, projects, research papers, essays, case studies, and presentations and primary document analysis. Summative assessments will represent 70% of the total student grade for each semester of the course. Students will also engage in formative assessments for each unit, which will help students develop skills and knowledge, and indicate progress toward the summative assessments given. Examples of formative assessment can include questions, notes, readings, homework, smaller in-class assignments, graphic organizers, quick writes, and quizzes. Formative assessments will represent 30% of the total student grade for each quarter of the course. (*Please refer to the "Highland Park Senior High School Grading Policy" for further information.*)

II. Class Expectations: *Safe, Respectful, and Responsible*

- First and foremost, I ask that you develop and maintain a healthy respect for yourself. Be proud of your history, ideas, and your goals.
- Respect the history, ideas, goals, and health of your peers.
- Respect Highland staff and property. Demonstrate this by understanding and following rules and by cleaning up after yourself.

- Take ownership of your learning. Be organized. Participate. Ask questions.
- Cell phones are not to be used in class without permission. **Failure to comply will be considered defiance and you will receive an office referral.**
- Food is not permitted. Make every effort to eat *before* you come to class. Water and coffee are acceptable.
- It is **your** responsibility to regularly check the Schoology for assignments and other information.
- Bring **fully charged** iPad, notebook, and pen/pencil to class **every day**.

Pass policy:

Passes will be issued at convenient times for the class (ex. during work time, not during lecture) as long as the student is in good standing and not abusing the privilege. Do not ask for a pass during the first or last ten minutes of class.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. I expect students to hold **themselves and others** to high standards of honesty and trustworthiness. All work (ex: study guides, papers, projects, etc.) is to be done individually unless otherwise noted by the teacher. Resources such as *turnitin.com* may be used to verify the authenticity of student work. Please refer to the Student and Family Handbook located under Student Resources on the HP Homepage for further information. There will be consequences for cheating and plagiarism. Student work will be confiscated and administrative action will be taken. Consequences will be determined by the teacher and administrator based on the severity of the infraction.

****Do not share your digital work with others!** Take pride in what you create and encourage others to do the same, put time and effort into their OWN work. (sharing of work will result in a 0 score for all parties involved and possible administration input where needed)

Late Work:

Students are expected to complete and submit assigned work on time. Work that is late for any reason, will be accepted for up to 3 days past the due date, for a 10% reduction in the score each day late. This is not to extend past the end of the quarter. Summative assessments **will not** be accepted after the due date, unless the student seeks out and receives prior approval from the teacher at least three days in advance. If you are absent on the day of an exam, **you must take it the day you return**. It is YOUR responsibility to arrange one of the following times to do so: During my Prep/PLC time, during class, or after school.

Retakes:

A student may retake **ONE** summative assessment per quarter. In order to retake a summative assessment, all formative ones must be completed. Students will have an opportunity to retake summative assessments once evidence of new learning is demonstrated. In order to retake an assessment, the student will arrange a plan with the instructor **within 3 days of the assessment being returned**. When a retake is given, the original grade will be replaced with the new assessment grade. If there is no improvement in the grade, the original grade will remain.

Extra Assistance:

I am available to help students some days before or after school by appointment. Please let me know when you would like to meet for assistance or to make up work.