

# **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

## **COURSE OVERVIEW AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **MR. WHITE**

#### **GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

*“The mission of Guilford High School is to focus on learning in a rigorous academic learning community that is safe and respectful.”*

#### **ENDURING UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS COURSE**

*Why is the study of modern civilization important?*

#### **ESSENTIAL SKILLS**

- Expressing oneself using “Accountable Talk” (verbal and written contributions to course)
- Independently developing a position and supporting it with content based evidence
- Identifying and evaluating different perspectives/points of view
- Detecting bias in visual and print materials
- Assessing different interpretations of history to weigh the credibility & reliability of sources
- Reading critically in order to recognize the difference between evidence and opinion
- Distinguishing relevant from irrelevant information
- Analyzing primary and secondary sources to draw conclusions
- Incorporating research, analytical, organizational, & written skills to develop research projects
- Organizing for Success (a **3 Ring Binder** that is devoted to this course is recommended)
- Time management for long term assignments

#### **SUGGESTED ONLINE RESOURCES**

- *Christian Science Monitor*
- *New York Times*
- *Washington Post*
- *New Haven Register*
- *Hartford Courant*
- *\*most of the pages above can be accessed directly through My Homepage.*
- Television/radio news programs

#### **GRADING**

The following types of graded activities will represent a portion of each student’s overall grade based upon the percentage associated with each activity.

**50% - Summative Assessments** (*refers to any type of assignment or assessment which concludes a task, unit of learning, or the development of a particular skill*)

**30% - Formative Assessments** (*refers to any type of assignment or assessment which is occurring during the ongoing learning process or understanding material or grasping a skill*)

**20% - Student Investment in Learning** - (*Participation, Critical & Reflective Thought, Habits of Learning, Attitude & Effort*)

**Assignments will NOT be accepted late** unless the student has an excused absence from school on the date the assignment was due. It is the students’ responsibility to be aware of their assignments regardless of absence. In extenuating circumstances it is recommended that the student arrange a meeting with me in order to develop a solution or plan that will maintain the integrity of the course, while accommodating the student’s extenuating needs.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATION**

There will be one major expectation for our class. That EXPECTATION is RESPECT; respect for oneself, one's teacher, and one's classmates. Students who are respectful arrive to class on time and are prepared to learn. During class be mindful of others. For example, one person should speak at a time, please refrain from interrupting the speech of another. Use hall passes appropriately, and avoid actions which disrupt the learning process. In an environment that seeks to foster intellectual pursuit and the development of scholars, disrespect will not be tolerated.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The best and most efficient way to contact Mr. White is via email at [whiteb@guilford.k12.ct.us](mailto:whiteb@guilford.k12.ct.us). The grade book for this course is available at PowerSchool. Please allow sufficient time for updates.

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