

# Contemporary Studies Syllabus

Spring 2017  
Room 104

## Instructor(s):

Mr. Pitzer

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## Course Description

Contemporary Studies examines the interactions between the United States and the world from 1914 to present day. This course will provide a venue for students to examine factors that influence changing political and economic relationships and foreign policies between the United States and its world neighbors. The influence of world events on the individual citizen and the reciprocal impact of an individual citizen's actions, in the democratic process, on world events will be emphasized.

**OBJECTIVE:** Students completing this course should be able to critically examine modern political and social events with greater clarity, having a foundational understanding of the historical factors now influencing modern American society.

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Exposure to the opinions of others is a byproduct of group discussion, and is an essential part of applying course content in the modern world. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the topics, vocabulary terms, articles and readings presented during their absence. All make up work must be submitted according to Putnam County Schools policy.

## Devices

We are not here to watch Netflix, text incessantly, or play games on our phones. If you don't want to participate, please see your counselor and arrange to go somewhere else. I am not a phone Nazi; I understand that phones are a part of our lives. Checking occasional messages, using a phone as a watch, and other reasonable uses are not going to cause a problem. However, being off task and blatantly ignoring our class activities to watch a movie or play a game is a discipline issue. I will not raise my voice or argue with you. You can do what you are supposed to do, or leave. Plain and simple.

## Restroom Use

I am not the bathroom police, and I do not intend to count your trips to the bathroom. However, I will NEVER leave class during class time - hence, I do not go to the bathroom during class time. If I can wait until break or lunch, I expect you to do the same. Emergencies happen, but there is no excuse for leaving every day.

## Assignments

The following major assignments will be included in this course:

- This course includes an academic paper. We will complete most of the paper writing process during class.
- There may be novels assigned as reading for outside of class.
- Additional tests and assignments are also included in the plans for this course. Study guides will be provided. Assignments, due dates, and other specifics are subject to change at teacher's discretion.

## Online Resources - [www.phs.learnsmestuff.com](http://www.phs.learnsmestuff.com)

If you miss a class, you may access the lesson plans, handouts, videos, and assignments at the above website. Additionally, tools such as an online word processor, video editing software, and other resources are available on the website.