

# Honors Current Events

Wando High School

2017 – 2018

Teacher: Mr. Chris Turpin

Location: F-218

[Christopher\\_turpin@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Christopher_turpin@charleston.k12.sc.us)

Office Hours: Each Day 7:45-8:20 and 3:45-4:15

## Course Description

This course is designed to take an unbiased look at some of the most significant conflicts, hotspots, and danger zones impacting our world today. It is intended to familiarize students with: 1) the basic historical background of these conflicts, 2) the opposing views within each conflict, and 3) the impact on the USA. This rigorous course will use a student-centered curriculum that emphasizes collaboration, critical thinking, global perspectives, creativity, self-direction, and interpersonal skills in order to master the content. Students will be required to complete multiple independent research assignments that will measure their complete understanding of current situations in our ever-changing world. More importantly, students will have to defend their position on certain topics using credible sources and data gathered during their research. For defending their positions, students will construct essays, create presentations, participate in debates, and sit in on mock organizational hearings. Much of the content will be driven by what is happening globally. Students should have an interest in global affairs and knowledge of U. S. History. Utilizing the *Choices Program*, from Brown University, students will also be exposed to curriculum developed on current and historical international and public policy issues. The mission being to ‘empower young people with the skills, knowledge, and participatory habits to be engaged citizens who are capable of addressing international and public policy issues through thoughtful public discourse and informed decision making.’

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## Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Analyze and provide their reaction to various current issues as presented in class
  - Evaluate specific events to gauge their impact on different sections of society
  - Apply ethical values and concepts to the issues presented
  - Assess the impact of specific events on local, state, national and world affairs
  - Formulate possible reasons and/or events have led to the specific current issue being examined
  - Compose ways that various current issues could have been altered after analyzing the issues
  - Recognize the possible impact of an issue on the student as a citizen
  - Propose possible ways students can impact current issues in a positive manner
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## Textbooks/Resources/Topics

No textbooks will be issued to students for this class. Materials for discussion will come from a wide variety of sources.

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## Topics of Study:

- Local, National, and International news, events, and issues relating to political, economic and social issues as they occur
  - Ongoing Domestic Issues
  - President and his Administration o Federal Budget, Deficit and Consumer Debt
  - Constitutional Rights
  - Education and Health Care Reform
  - Immigration Reform
  - Crime and Drugs
  - Ongoing International Issues
  - Human Rights
  - Global Climate Change
  - Globalization and Free Trade
  - Terrorism
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## Grading Policy:

- Daily Work/Readings and Discussions: 15%
- Blog/Website Writings, Editorials and Media: 35%
- Projects/Tests/Socratic Seminars: 50%

The State of South Carolina has mandated a uniform grading policy. The Charleston County School District and Wando High School, for use in regular classrooms, has approved the following basic marking system:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| A | 90 – 100 |
| B | 80 – 89  |
| C | 70 – 79  |
| D | 60 – 69  |
| F | 0 – 59   |

***In addition, there will be a midterm and a final exam, weighted according to CCSD regulations. The new exam policy per CCSD states the following:***

The superintendent may exempt from final examinations only seniors enrolled in courses earning a full Carnegie unit both first and second semesters for high school diploma credit who have an average of 90 or above for the second semester course, effective August 19, 2016. All underclassmen students will take final examinations. The superintendent may not exempt students from final advanced placement examinations, state end of course examinations, or one-semester one-half Carnegie unit course examinations.

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## Absences, Attendance and Make-Up Policy:

Students are expected to follow all school and school district policies.