



Gloucester High School

Canada & World Studies (Social Science) Department

Welcome to World Issues, (CGW 4U), taught by Mr. Neufeld.

This is a 1 credit course.



Overview

This course examines the global challenges of creating a sustainable and equitable future, focusing on current issues that illustrate these challenges. Students will investigate a range of topics, including cultural, economic, and geopolitical relationship, regional disparities in the ability to meet basic human needs, and protection of the natural environment. Students will use geo-technologies and skills of geographic inquiry and analysis to develop and communicate balanced opinions about the complex issues facing Canada and a world that is interdependent and constantly changing.

How is this course organized?

| Unit | Unit/Strand Name |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction | Introduction to World Issues State of our world, concepts, definitions, what is an issue, ways of seeing the world, etc. |
| Unit 1 | Geopolitical Issues and International Affairs Terrorism, geopolitics, international relations and international organization, political allies and alliances, foreign policies, propaganda, world “hot spots”, conflicts, political spectrum, etc. |
| Unit 2 | Environmental Issues: State of Our Planet Our earth’s systems (hydrosphere, geosphere, etc.) and systems in general- GAIA, human-environment relationship, environmental issues, etc. |
| Unit 3 | Demographic Issues: Population The “population bomb”, theories of population, Malthus, population pyramids, population control, human migration and refugees, population policies and impact, etc. |
| Unit 4 | Resource Management Issues: Food and Water Food supply and food security, accessibility, nutrition, distribution, fair trade, genetically modified foods, water distribution systems, access to water, etc. |
| Unit 5 | Economic issues: Development Theories of economic development, globalization, aid, trade, geospatial differences in wealth, poverty and its effects, “have and have not countries”, tension, economic pacts (G8), military spending versus humanitarian spending, etc. |

What are Learning Skills?

The Ontario Curriculum Policy Documents all describe learning skills:

- Responsibility
- Independent Work
- Collaboration (Teamwork)
- Organization
- Initiative
- Self-Regulation (Work Habits)

What are categories?

The Ontario Curriculum Policy Documents all describe four categories of knowledge and skills:

- Knowledge/Understanding
- Thinking/Inquiry
- Communication
- Application

What are levels?

The Ontario Curriculum Policy Documents all describe four levels of achievement within each of the four categories listed above. Level one represents passable achievement and “level four” represents outstanding achievement.

How will I be assessed?

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve learning. Assessment will be ongoing and varied. Some assessments will be used to

determine initial understanding (diagnostic). This is beneficial feedback and will not count towards your mark. During units, ongoing assessments will be used to help improve your learning (formative) and may count towards your mark. At the end of units, assessments will be used to evaluate what you have learned (summative) and will count towards your mark. **Learning Skills** will be assessed throughout the course and they are evaluated and reported separately. Each Learning Skill is reported using E, G, S or N (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, or Needs Improvement). Even though Learning Skills are not part of your mark, *they are critical to your success in this course.*

How will I be evaluated?

Your achievement in each of the *four categories* will be assessed throughout the course. Using some formative and all summative assessment information, an overall mark will be determined. This mark represents your most consistent performance in the critical learning for this course. Note that diagnostic assessments will NOT count towards the mark.

Levels, marks and anecdotal comments will be used to communicate your achievement on assessments

According to Ontario Curriculum Policy Documents, seventy percent of your final mark comes from assessments done during the course and thirty percent of your final mark comes from your performance on a final assessment at the end of the course.

| | CATEGORY | Weighting out of 100 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Term Assessments 70% | Knowledge / Understanding | 25% |
| | Thinking | 25% |
| | Communication | 25% |
| | Application | 25% |
| Final Assessments 30% | Culminating Performance Task | 10% |
| | Culm. Activity (Exam) | 20% |

We encourage ongoing communication between teacher, student and parent/guardian throughout the course. Have a great semester!

LEARNING SKILLS ASSESSMENTS (Sample Behaviours)

RESPONSIBILITY

Consider how well you ...

- Fulfill your commitments in all learning environments
- Complete and submit class work, homework and assignments according to agreed upon timelines
- Manage your behaviour

INDEPENDENT WORK

The way you begin, work on and complete a task on your own.

- Stay on task - avoid getting distracted
- Use your classroom time appropriately to complete tasks
- Figure out what to do - follow instructions carefully
- Finish your work

COLLABORATION (TEAMWORK)

Two or more people sharing the work required to complete a task

- Willing to do an equitable share of the group's work
- Encouraging everybody in the group to participate while responding positively to the ideas of others
- Working with others to resolve conflicts and building consensus to achieve group goals
- Managing the group's time and ensuring that all members stay "on task" and complete the work
- Your ability to interact successfully in a variety of groupings (building healthy peer relationships)

ORGANIZATION

The way you manage your work and materials.

- Kept your notes neat, in order, and complete
- Gather, Evaluate and use information, technology and resources (use of planners or agendas, etc.) to keep track of tasks and deadlines
- Make a plan of action to get your work done
- Change your plan of action to adjust to your workload
- Establish priorities and manage your time to achieve goals

INITIATIVE

The way you take charge of your learning - Just do it!

- Demonstrate curiosity and interest in learning
- Approach new tasks with a positive attitude
- Act upon new ideas and opportunities for learning (i.e. get to work on your own)
- Ask for help from teachers and other students (when necessary), offer to help others
- Look for unique solutions to problems - try alternative approaches to do your work
- Search for the information you need

SELF-REGULATION (WORK HABITS)

The way you do your work, and how it looks when you are done.

- Bring all required materials to class and use them properly
- Complete and submit your work on time
- Try to do your best every day (assess and reflect critically on your strengths, needs and interests)
- Review your work before handing it in
- Follow safe practices in the classroom
- Persevere when facing challenges - don't give up