**Challenger High School**

**Contemporary World Issues Syllabus**

**SST 401**

**2023-20124**

**Instructor: Shawn Parks Phone: (253) 800-6821 Email:** **sparks@bethelsd.org**

**Grade Level:** 12 **Credit:** Social Studies .5 per session **NCAA Approved**

**Course Description:**

This is the study of international, national, and local issues through a lens that allows for respect and recognition of diversity. The issues of cultural ethnicity, sexism, discrimination, and global diversity are examined in economic, sociological, political and civic contents. This course delves into major human rights issues post-World War II, examining their evolution, international responses, and contemporary parallels. It fosters critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deep understanding of global interdependence.

| **Week 1: Introduction to Human Rights*** Overview of human rights post-WWII
* Key conventions and declarations

**Week 2: The Cold War and Human Rights*** Human rights during the Cold War era
* Case studies: Eastern Europe, Latin America

**Week 3: Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing*** Holocaust, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur
* International responses and interventions

**Week 4: Women's Rights and Gender Equality*** Progress since WWII
* Contemporary challenges

**Week 5: Children's Rights*** Impact of war on children
* Child labor and education rights
 | **Week 6: The Rise of Global Terrorism and Human Rights*** Post 9/11 world
* Balancing security and freedom

**Week 7: Environmental Rights and Climate Change*** Emergence of environmental rights
* Global initiatives and challenges

**Week 8: Refugees and Forced Migration*** Causes and consequences
* International law and policy

**Week 9: Technology, Privacy, and Human Rights*** Digital era challenges
* Cybersecurity and individual freedoms

**Week 10: Course Review and Future Directions*** Recap of key themes
* Group presentations on contemporary issues
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#### Course Objectives:

* Understand the evolution of human rights issues since WWII.
* Analyze responses from nations and international bodies.
* Draw parallels between historical and current human rights issues.
* Develop critical thinking skills through analysis of complex global issues.

**Grading Scale: (Progress reports will be done monthly)**

* A: 90-100%
* B: 80-89%
* C: 70-79%
* D: 60-69%
* F: Below 60%

#### Assessment:

* Participation (20%)
* Weekly reflections (30%)
* Midterm project (20%)
* Final project (30%)

#### Policies and Expectations:

* Regular attendance and active participation
* Adherence to academic integrity and respect in discussions
* Timely submission of assignments

#### Common Core State Standards Alignment

* CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among key details and ideas.
* CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.