

Contemporary World Problems

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: SS2145WAS

Grade level: 12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 0.5

Course Description

This semester-long course examines the major issues that have shaped the culture of the United States throughout history to the present. Students explore topics that include human rights, globalization, and environmental issues, and investigate the events and circumstances that have influenced the development of today's complex policies and international relations, such as cultural changes, migration, economics, social policy, international trade, global policies, and greening the globe. The use of recurring themes allows students to draw connections between the past and the present, among cultures, and among multiple perspectives. Throughout the course, students use a variety of primary and secondary sources to evaluate the reliability of historical evidence and to draw conclusions about historical events. The course challenges students to foster and develop critical thinking skills so they can make informed decisions about the important global issues in the 21st century.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Investigate the development of civilization in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas and explore how societies change over time.
- Analyze technological, political, social, and economic revolutions in world history.
- Explore the conflicts between nations to present day, and analyze the challenges facing the modern world.
- Describe cultural characteristics of societies over time, including the role of women, religion, and art and literature, and investigate the effects of technological innovation on economic and social change
- Engage in routine writing in response to texts, concepts, and scenarios.
- Use research skills to access, interpret, and apply information from multiple sources

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course.

Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	10%
Essays	10%
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Projects	10%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

- Unit 1:** Human Rights: Contemporary Concerns
- Unit 2:** Human Rights: Contemporary Viewpoints
- Unit 3:** Globalization: Economic and Social Effects
- Unit 4:** Environmental Issues: Human / Environmental Interaction
- Unit 5:** Environmental Issues: International Migration
- Unit 6:** Environmental Issues: Contemporary Viewpoints