
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: HISTORY IN THE HEADLINES

Course Overview and Essential Skills

Students will develop a historical perspective through inquiry and analysis of current social, political, economic, and technological issues. This course will be taught through the use of mainstream news sources. Students enrolled in this course will increase their knowledge of world, national, and regional issues. They will enhance their ability to observe events from a critical perspective and improve their global awareness.

Social studies skills such as analyzing documents, categorizing information, evaluating evidence, and making inferences will be introduced and practiced. The course will serve as a foundation for further social studies courses and will focus on developing critical thinking, writing, and communication skills. An emphasis is placed on independently taking notes, and adequately preparing for assessments through the development of individual student-made study guides. For each unit, students may be required to analyze, recall, explain, interpret, apply, or evaluate the particular concepts being taught.

Course Textbook and Required Materials

- Time Magazine, ISSN#: 0040-781X

Online: [Time Magazine \(http://time.com/\)](http://time.com/)

- **Online News, Media, and Educational Resources:** This course is not organized around a traditional textbook. In light of our dynamic world, there is a heavy reliance on approved educational supplemental resources. [Examples include, but are not limited to, *Fox News*, *The CBS Evening News*, *CNN*, *PBS Frontline*, *NYTimes Upfront Magazine*, and *Newsweek*]

Course Outline of Material Covered:

| Unit or Topic | Concepts/Skills/Resources | Timeframe |
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| Introduction To Media in the Information Age | Foundational skills include, but are not limited to: defining the problem of “authority” in evaluating the objectivity in news reporting -Differentiate between opinion-editorial (Op-Ed) writings and news articles -Evaluate the impact that technology has had upon people’s perceptions of the world around them. - Introduce and practice independent reading comprehension strategies, note-taking skills, and study strategies -Describe how modern technology (Internet, 24 hour news cycle, etc.) has affected the amount of information available to the average citizen. -Review of basic geographic, economic, political, religious, and social terms that will be utilized throughout the course | First Week of School The course is not organized around a textbook. In light of our dynamic world, the course does not adhere to a set course of study and it is possible for the class to be following both domestic and foreign events at the same time. |
| The World In The Headlines | This unit will introduce the student to the characteristics of the contemporary international system. Students will analyze the status and political, economic, and social problems of major international powers in the modern | The course is not organized around a textbook. In light of our dynamic world, |

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| | world. Emphasis will be placed on economic interdependence and the challenges placed on countries in the 21 st Century. Students will be required to retain information and insights from this unit in order to compare and contrast developments in other regions including the United States. Social studies skills such as analyzing documents, categorizing information, evaluating evidence, and making inferences will be practiced. | the course does not adhere to a set course of study and it is possible for the class to be following both domestic and foreign events at the same time. |
| U.S. Foreign Policy and World Involvement | The unit will have students evaluate the unique position of the United States as the sole superpower in the post-Cold War era. Students will identify the foreign policy goals of the United States and how various agencies conduct our foreign relations. Through the examination of our foreign policy students will have the opportunity to determine the successes and failures of these policies. We will compare the concepts of unilateralism versus multilateralism in the 21 st century. Special attention will be placed on the United States continuing War on Terror and cooperation with participating allies. Social studies skills such as analyzing documents, categorizing information, evaluating evidence, and making inferences will be practiced. | The course is not organized around a textbook. In light of our dynamic world, the course does not adhere to a set course of study and it is possible for the class to be following both domestic and foreign events at the same time. |
| U.S. Domestic Policy and Events | Students will have the opportunity to examine the impact of various political, social, economic, and cultural institutions in the United States. Major news events in those areas will be emphasized. The political process and the individual's role in the process will be discussed. The role of each branch of government and how they work together and independently. Students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the platforms and philosophy of the leading political parties in the United States. Foreign events will be tied into domestic events when possible. Social studies skills such as analyzing documents, categorizing information, evaluating evidence, and making inferences will be practiced. | The course is not organized around a textbook. In light of our dynamic world, the course does not adhere to a set course of study and it is possible for the class to be following both domestic and foreign events at the same time. |

****Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***