

# Current Issues

# Mr. Ripperger

## Description

This course look at current topics that are facing America today. We will be looking at historical events as they take place in this country. Understanding what is happening in the world we live in is a bedrock requirement of civic efficacy, which is the readiness and willingness to assume the responsibilities of citizenship, knowing how, when, and where to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good of a society.

Classes will consist of daily current events created by the students. We will also be digging into specific issues listed in the “Units” section below.

## Units

Units will be fluid and may comprise of, but are not limited to, these topics

1. Brexit
2. Palestinian Israeli Conflict
3. America’s Infrastructure
4. To the Moon
5. Vaccinations
6. 2020 Elections
7. Gender Equity
8. Police violence
9. Coronavirus
10. US Foreign Aid
11. Gun control

## Behavior

Your responsibility is toward yourself and your peers. Yourself, by conducting your behavior in a manner that allows you to learn at your optimal level. Your peers by not disrupting their learning environment so they can learn to the best of their ability.

Mr. Ripperger’s classroom rules are posted in the front of the classroom.

## Grading Scale

<i>Grading Weights:</i>	<i>Grading Scale</i>	C+	79-78
Process 30%	A+ 100	C	77-72
Content 70%	A 99-92	C-	71-70
	A- 91-90	D+	69-68
	B+ 89-88	D	67-62
	B 87-82	D-	61-60
	B- 81-80	F	59-50

## Late Work

Late work will be accepted throughout the up until the time of the quiz for the unit. However, participating in the daily assignments is an essential way for the teacher to check for understanding and the student to be fully participating in the class.

## Make up/Retakes

When student are absent, they are accountable for turning in assignments the next day they return to class. Make up work should be completed in a timely manner. As stated above, completing homework on time will help with understanding for quizzes.

Test re-takes can be administered for any student that has failed the quiz the first time. An alternative quiz will be provided. The higher score will be the one recorded on JMC.

## **Cheating**

Cheating from another student, book, and/or notes is a major offense. If caught cheating, the student will lose credit for the work. If a student is caught cheating with another student, BOTH students will lose credit. Parents will be contacted by their student and informed of the offense.

Plagiarism is when a student does not give credit to an author or producer of a piece of work (i.e. music, books, magazines, websites, etc.). If a student is caught plagiarizing, the student will lose credit for their work. In the real world, college students have been expelled, lawsuits have been filed against performers.

## **Technology**

*Phones/iPods/Computers:* Phones should be put away during instructional time. There will be times where phones will be allowed to be used in an appropriate manner. Students will be given an initial verbal warning. If another warning is issued, the student will surrender their phone until the end of the class period. If you are a habitual offender, your phone will be sent to the office and a parent will need to come in and retrieve it per the student handbook.

*Computers:* Computers are tools that serve an instructional purpose. They are not to be used for videos or gaming. If students are abusing their computer privileges, they may be barred from using during that class period. Please make sure that your computer is adequately charged.

## **Classroom Expectations**

1. Open up your computer and access the day's Current Events. Try to figure out what the headline is and make sure that you are maintaining notes. A quiz will be given every three weeks.
2. You will have assigned seats. This allows me to get to know your names quicker, I will be able to take attendance quicker, and makes it easier for any substitutes who may have to cover class.
3. You can chew gum, but please no bubble blowing. You will be told to spit it out. If gum is discovered in places it shouldn't, then there may be a moratorium instituted.
4. Please respect my materials and the school property in the classroom. Also please refrain from touching the
5. Don't believe anything I say. Look for proof that what I am saying is true. Look it up!
6. Don't be afraid to fail. Learn from those mistakes and errors. Become a better student and person from your setbacks.