

# Global Issues 40S

## Course Outline

Teacher: Ms. A. Dennis

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[www.perspectiveminds.weebly.com](http://www.perspectiveminds.weebly.com)

**Objectives:** In this course, students will **acquire knowledge and understanding, and think critically about our complex and changing world.** In doing so, we will learn to **participate** in local, national and global communities. We will also build self-knowledge and be conscious of connections to nature and society and finally, to learn to live peacefully with others and to care for our common homeland. *You will:*

- ✓ Acquire knowledge and understanding, and think critically about our complex and changing world
- ✓ Learn to participate effectively in local, national, and global communities
- ✓ Build self-knowledge and be conscious of connections to nature and society
- ✓ Learn to live peacefully with others and to care for our common land

### Topics of Discussion:

Although there are ten areas of Global Focus, we will not have time to cover all of them in extensive detail in this single semester course. *The following is a list of topics which we will explore, some in larger ways than others:* Peace & Conflict; Oppression and Genocide; Environment; Indigenous Peoples; Media; Consumerism; Health & Biotechnology; Gender Politics; and Social Justice & Human Rights

### Take Action:

A **Take Action or Personal Action Research Project** will be a large part of this course and will replace your final exam. It will be worth **20% of your final mark.** Mini inquiry projects will also be included.

*Understandings for these projects include:*

- Our ecological footprint is exceeding Earth's capacity to sustain biodiversity and human life
- Our decisions and actions matter; they have social, environmental, economic, and political consequences
- Individuals, groups, governments, and corporations have the power to effect change and the responsibility to contribute to a sustainable future
- The media do not provide neutral reflections of reality; they affect our decisions and actions
- A global economic system that depends upon and perpetuates unrestrained consumerism is unsustainable
- Economic and technological development has contributed greatly to society, but often with harmful human and environmental consequences
- Indigenous knowledge and world views offer alternatives to prevailing assumptions about how to live with one another within the environment
- Political systems distribute power, privilege, and wealth in different ways, some more justly than others
- A just society respects human diversity and recognizes universal, equal, and inalienable human rights
- There is no *them* or *over there*; we all belong to the human species, our concerns are interdependent, and we are part of the natural world

## Methodology:

**Self-inquiry and seminar discussions** will be a large part of this course. If you do not feel comfortable presenting in front of small and large groups, **this is probably NOT the course for you**. Your **Take Action Project** will also require you to **communicate** with individuals in your school and within the extended community.

## Grading:

Your work will be assessed weekly, with the intention of determining how your work demonstrates that you are working towards becoming a responsible, global citizen, conscious of social justice and sustainability issues that threaten to tear our world apart.

## Attendance:

It is important that students attend **ALL classes (unless you are unable to due to illness)** and that you arrive to class on time. If you know that you will be absent due to a pre-arranged appointment or school event, please let me know in advance. Any unforeseen absences due to illness should be called into Safe Arrival at **1-855-278-4513**. If you are well enough to so, please contact me: [adennis@wsd1.org](mailto:adennis@wsd1.org) as well. **Attendance and punctuality are imperative to your success in this course. If you are absent, you are responsible to find out what you have missed. Google Classroom will help with this but not replace the lesson content.**

**Attendance and punctuality are imperative to your success in this course**, especially due to your responsibility to lead seminars and table discussions.

**Evaluation and Assessment:** Plagiarism is a serious offence and will result in a mark of **0%** for that assignment. **Parents, guardians and administration will also be notified.**

## Assignments:

- ✓ ***Inquiry/Process Log/Journal 25% - These will be submitted via Google Classroom***
  - Each class ends with a few lines to one page of what you did during class. Journals will be checked weekly/bi-weekly, and marks allotted for each entry completed. Here you share your thoughts and ideas about as well as reflections regarding topics being covered.
  
- ✓ ***Inquiry/Seminar Presentations 30%***
  - One way to show your interest and critical understanding in becoming a global citizen is to explore areas of global significance, either inspired by what happens in class or in your own specific areas of passion and interest using written, oral, and multi-media tasks. **You are expected to prepare two-three small group presentations**, dates TBA. Self-reflection, self-assessment, and peer assessment will occur. Typically, they take about 10-15 minutes, should be completed on your own; with some class time given; and will simply inform the table group about something you have been thinking about. You can present by talking, asking for a discussion, which you will lead, making a PowerPoint slideshow, and/or showing a documentary/news clip of something that caught your attention and discussing its significance. **You will sign up for these on specific dates, on a sign-up sheet in class.**

✓ **Take Action Planning Booklet 25%**

- Your Take Action Planning Booklet will be your #1 planning tool for your Take Action Project. Each section requires you to think critically and reflect on your Global Issues journey. You must submit your booklet at required marking periods. Keep up with the sections so you are NOT completing this at the last minute. Some class time will be given to work on this; however, this course will require independent work outside of class time.

✓ **Take Action Project 20%**

- Details to follow in class.

