

American Problems

Credit - ½

Term(s) – 1 Semester

Text(s): None – variety of magazine and newspaper articles

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites, but the course material is intended for upper classmen.

Course Description:

American Problems offers students a chance to explore and discuss the current social problems facing today's Americans. Among the topics that might be discussed are child abuse, drug abuse, euthanasia, terrorism and racism. This course allows the student the opportunity to explore and better understand the complexities of social problems he/she may face during his/her adult life.

Course Content:

Introduction to what are and how to study Social Problems
In depth study of student chosen topics

Course Format:

The format varies with the material, but material will be presented through the following: full class discussion, small group work, role plays, audio-visual technologies, outside readings and small group presentations.

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to come to class ready (with homework completed) and willing to discuss the ideas in their daily assignments.

Grades:

The following activities will be assessed with the heaviest emphasis on in-class participation and tests: class participation, tests, daily homework, take-home essays, and individual research work.

Course Objectives:

- Evaluate the roles and influences of various individuals and groups in shaping American governmental policies.
- Compare and contrast the perspectives of various individuals and groups toward public policies and issues.
- Gather and assess possible sources for their usefulness in the study of public policies and issues.
- Apply the inquiry method to the study of public policies and issues.
- Use cause and effect relationships to develop possible solutions to social problems.
- Analyze the social ramifications of historical/political events.

- Analyze how mass media impacts the study of social issues.
- Analyze the impacts of government policies/institutions upon individuals and groups.
- Analyze how individual/group culture impacts the study of social issues.