**Contemporary Issues**

**Ms. Beth Richards**

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Text(s)

* There is no school issued textbook, therefore print media, news, radio, magazines and the internet will be the primary sources of information.

Required Supplies

* Necessary supplies are pen or pencil, paper, and access to internet or other sources.

Course Overview

* Students will use inquiry skills to examine the issues that impact the contemporary world. Included in the course will be analysis of the historical, cultural, economic, and geographic factors that have raised certain issues to levels of concern in our nation and around the globe. Students will engage in research and problem solving in order to better understand and assess significant current issues.

Course Objectives

* State standards for teaching and learning in this course and others are available at [http://tn.gov/education/topic/academic-standards](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://tn.gov/education/topic/academic-standards&sa=D&ust=1502915899992000&usg=AFQjCNGRBxwf7ZTUjhR57O8TIvhniEAxsw)
* Many issues we discuss can be considered controversial. It is imperative that students be respectful of the opinions of others.

Major Projects/Field Trips

* A final exam group project will be used for assessment.  It will be a multimedia project on a topic that will discussed and decided on during the course of the semester.

Grading

* Per Sevier County Board of Education policy, daily grades will count as two-thirds of a student’s final average while test grades will count as the final one-third.   Deductions will be made for unexcused absences and tardies.  Unexcused absence 3 points off daily and unexcused tardy 1 point off daily grade.   The semester exam will count as 20% of the student’s final grade for the course when averaged with the grades from each marking period.  Progress reports are distributed at the three week point of each six weeks grading period.

Parental Access to Instructional Materials

* Pursuant to Tennessee Code 49-6-7003, parents or guardians may request access to any teaching materials, instructional materials, and other teaching aids used in the classroom as well as any tests developed or graded by the teacher.  In order to facilitate this request, parents/guardians are asked to submit a request for such review via letter, email, or phone conversation prior to an established meeting for said review.