



PINEWOOD – THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THESSALONIKI, GREECE

NAME OF COURSE: Global Issues

GRADE LEVEL: 10,11,12

SCHOOL YEAR: 2011 – 2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of the most serious global issues that remain unsolved or of novel issues that have emerged after the formation of the global village. These issues are environmental, such as global warming, biodiversity and ecosystem losses, fisheries depletion, deforestation. They are also social and health issues such as poverty, education for all, global infectious diseases as well as issues of regulatory nature such as new taxation rules, biotechnology rules, e-commerce rules. The complexity and their interdisciplinary nature are examined thoroughly. Reasons why the current international system has not been able to successfully deal with them are discussed. New ideas regarding global problem solving are proposed.

This is an elective course for students in Grades 10-12.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To gain an understanding of basic concepts regarding a global issue.
- To gain an understanding of sustainable development.
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- To understand about essential human needs and how they can be met in a sustainable way.
- To learn about global issues with respect to keeping our “house” or environment in order.
- To gain an understanding of global issues with respect to sharing our humanity, such as poverty.
- To learn about global issues that need a global regulatory approach.
- To investigate possible sustainable structural solutions.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE *

QUARTER I

Unit 1. Getting Started with Global Issues

Defining Global Issues – Case Study: Global Warming – Understanding Sustainability and Resources.

Unit 2. Understanding Population and Carrying Capacity

Population Throughout History – Population Trends – Carrying Capacity

In addition, during the First Quarter student prepared activities take place such as seminars (discussing a number of global issues - a list of global issues is provided by the teacher), debates, projects.

QUARTER II

Unit 2. Continued

Ecological Footprint - Migration

Unit 3. Meeting Essential Human Needs: Food, Water, and Energy

Food for People and Water for Food – Sustainable Solutions: Food and Water – Energy: Fossil Fuel Issues and Impacts – Sustainable Solutions: Energy Enough for People and the Planet.

In addition, during the Second Quarter student prepared activities take place such as seminars (discussing a number of global issues - a list of global issues is provided by the teacher), debates, projects.

QUARTER III

Unit 4. Sharing our Planet: Issues Involving the Global Commons

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Losses – Deforestation – Fisheries Depletion – Water Deficits – Maritime Safety and Pollution – Sustainable Solutions: Environmental Justice.

Unit 5. Sharing our Humanity: Issues requiring a Global Commitment

Poverty – Education for all -Global Infectious Diseases

In addition, during the Third Quarter student prepared activities take place such as seminars (discussing a number of global issues - a list of global issues is provided by the teacher), debates, projects.

QUARTER IV

Unit 5. Continued

National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Unit 6. Governance, Economic Development, and Peace

Governance: Standards of Effectiveness – Ineffective Governance – Global Governance

In addition, during the Fourth Quarter student prepared activities take place such as seminars (discussing a number of global issues - a list of global issues is provided by the teacher), debates, projects.

**Note that the order in scope and sequence is subject to change during the school year.*

HOMEWORK POLICY

All homework must be handed in on time. Late homework gets minus 10% penalty for their grade. No late homework will be accepted beyond four days.

ASSESSMENT

•Semester exams to test the student's mastery of the semester concepts.

- Homework and classwork assignments used for reinforcement, review and evaluation.
- Activity reports.
- Debates
- Student seminar presentations
- Participation in class discussion.
- Student effort and application.

Quarter grades are calculated as follows:

Tests – 30%

Homework – 20%

Class Activities – 20%

Student prepared activities (Seminar presentations, debates, projects) – 20%

Participation, attitude – 10%

RESOURCES

- Text:

It's All Connected. A Comprehensive Guide to Global Issues and Sustainable Solutions. 2005. Facing the Future.

Rischar J.F. 2002. High Noon – 20 Global Problems 20 Years to Solve Them. J.F. Rischar, Basic Books, New York.

- Resource books and handouts
- School library
- Overhead projector
- Slides
- Computer
- Board

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is fundamental to the integrity and operation of our school. Acts of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism (the act of presenting others' words and ideas as one's own without crediting the source), stealing in quizzes and tests, copying work from other students or allowing their own work to be copied, or using notes during a test, are considered serious offences. The consequences of academic dishonesty will be a zero grade on the specific test/assignment, and additional disciplinary action. The said student will be ineligible or removed from the National Honor Society.