

## **Tech & Society (Social Issues Through Media) Syllabus**

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**Room 607**

### **Unit Topics**

1. Death Penalty/ Crime and Punishment
2. Religion, Racism and Hate and Tolerance
3. Self-Image, Pop Culture, Privacy Issues and Intellectual Property
4. Technology (society, ethics and morals)
5. Civil Rights and Social Freedoms
6. Cloning, Medical Issues and Mental Illness
7. Terrorism and War
8. Youth-Middle Age-Old Age

\*Order of units subject to change due to flow of the course and current issues and events.

### **Assessments:**

Major, Minor and Practice with standardized weights per county policy.

### **Course Description**

The goal of Social Issues Through Media is to understand & comprehend the major social issues, themes and ideas of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century through the medium of film. This semester long course will examine religion,

economics, government, politics, tolerance, death penalty, self image, social freedoms and other socially relevant topics. The medium of film will be used to generate discussion & increase comprehension and understanding of these events and their impact on the world that we live in today.

You are expected to participate in class discussions, read primary source and ancillary documents, do independent research and complete writing assignments during the semester. You will need to have internet access outside of school as well as access to a computer and word-processing.

### **Work Policy:**

#### **Honor Code Violation:**

- Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating is defined as “the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience.” Cheating is any act whose intent is to gain reward or success that is not honestly earned. Plagiarism is the presentation of materials as ones’ own effort when it is the work of another. Violations of the Honor Code will result in a referral to the proper administrator for disciplinary action pursuant to Rule 9 in the FCS Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Handbook.

**Recovery policy:** *Please see the Frequently Asked Questions at the end of these syllabus pages*

***READ the STUDENT HANDBOOK ON STUDENT EXPECTATIONS & HONOR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS!***

Please read over this syllabus carefully. Both students and parents are to sign the syllabus verification form. Your signature indicates that you have read the syllabus and are aware of class policies, requirements, grading and teacher contact information. Please contact your teacher at any time for more info or if you have questions. We look forward to working with BOTH parents & students to make this year successful!

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **FAQ #1 – What are the assignment categories that makeup a student’s grade in each course?**

Major Assignments are those that are cumulative in nature and are designed to measure student learning after instruction. Generally, these assignments cover multiple standards/skills or are assigned when a significant amount of dedicated instructional time was devoted to the content being assessed.

Minor Assignments are those that are designed to monitor student learning throughout instruction. Generally, these assignments cover fewer standards/skills within a unit or are assigned when a smaller amount of dedicated instructional time was devoted to the content being assessed.

Practice Assignments are daily assignments, observations, or engagement activities given in-class or for homework in order to build or remediate specific knowledge or skills.

Teachers and their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) ultimately determine which specific assignments will be entered into the major, minor, and practice categories of the gradebook.

#### **FAQ #2 – How much is each category weighted in determining a student’s overall course grade?**

Major Assignments are weighted at 55% of the overall course grade.

Minor Assignments are weighted at 35% of the overall course grade.

Practice Assignments are weighted at 10% of the overall course grade.

#### **FAQ #3 – What about Final Exams?**

***There are no Final Exams.***

Teachers and their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will administer their last major graded experience two weeks prior to the end of the semester. Teachers have the flexibility to determine if the graded experience will be cumulative in-nature or will constitute the unit assessment for the last unit of the semester. These assessments will count as one major assignment and will not have a separate grading category or weight. These assessments will be completed within the timeframe of a normal class period. Teachers and PLCs may elect to administer a performance task component of the assessment in one class period and a multiple-choice or short-answer component of the assessment in another class period.

#### **FAQ #4 – What about Georgia Milestones / state-mandated End-of-Course exams?**

There is no EOC for this class.

**FAQ #5 – If a student is not satisfied with their original grade on a major assessment, when can a student request recovery in order to redo or retake an assessment?**

Students will have **one opportunity** to recover their grade on each **major assignment/assessment** if they scored **below 75% on the initial attempt**. **Recovery is not provided for minor or practice assignments.**

Students can earn a maximum grade of 75% on the recovered major assignment. Students who earn 75 – 100% on the recovered assignment will receive a 75%. Students who earn below a 75% on the recovered assignment will receive the grade earned or the original grade, whichever is higher.

*To best position students for success, teachers may require students to complete any missing assignments, remediation activities, and/or attend extra-help sessions prior to recovery opportunities.*

*Recovery must be requested by the student and completed prior to the due date for the next major assignment/assessment.*

**FAQ #6 – What happens if a student is present in-class but does not turn in an assignment by the due date?**

A grade of zero will be entered into gradebook until the assignment is submitted.

Upon submission, teachers will deduct 15% of the assignment grade if the assignment is turned in past the due date. This will be calculated by multiplying the actual grade earned by 0.85. [For example, if a student earned an 90% on a project but the project was turned in past the due date, the student would receive a 77% ( $90 \times 0.85$ ).] If a student fails to turn in a late or missing assignment by the end of the unit, teachers will enter a zero for the assignment in the gradebook. Teachers will deduct 25% of the assignment grade if the assignment is turned in past the end of unit major assessment. This will be calculated by multiplying the actual grade earned by 0.75. [For example, if a student earned an 90% on a project but the project was turned in past the end of unit major assessment, the student would receive a 68% ( $90 \times 0.75$ ).]

**FAQ #7 – What happens if a student does not turn in an assignment because they are absent?**

Upon return to school, students will have an equal number of days as they were absent to complete any late or missing assignments (practice, major, and minor) for full credit. Teachers will enter a zero for any assignment not submitted on the assignment due date. If the assignment still has not been submitted within the absent-day-count, but before the end of the unit, teachers will deduct 15% of the assignment grade. This will be calculated by multiplying the actual grade earned by 0.85. If a student fails to turn in a late or missing assignment by the end of the unit, teachers will deduct 25% of the assignment grade (if the assignment is turned in past the end-of-unit-major-assessment.)

**FAQ #8 – Is there a minimum and maximum number of assignments?**

All courses should have at least eight graded assignments per nine-week grading period (at least two major assignments, three minor assignments, and three practice assignments). There is no

maximum number of assignments. Teachers and their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) ultimately determine the specific number of assignments.

#### **FAQ #9 – What is the grading scale?**

Students will earn numeric final grades for each course based on the following grading scale:

***A – 90 and above***

***B – 80–89***

***C – 70–79***

***F – Below 70***

#### **FAQ #10 – When will grade reports be issued throughout the year?**

Interim Progress Reports will be issued every 4 ½ weeks. Report Cards will be issued every 9 weeks. Credit is earned at the end of each semester. Teachers will also notify parent/guardian(s) by personal contact via email or phone call if a student is in danger of failing or is experiencing a significant decline in achievement.

#### **FAQ #11 – How can I keep up to date with grades?**

Check the *Infinite Campus* portal to check grades. Check the Microsoft Team for each class to review specific assignments, course documents, assessment calendar, to access the syllabus with course specific information from each teacher, etc. Please routinely check both Infinite Campus & Microsoft Teams for the most up-to-date information. As students take on more responsibility, it is important for them to check this information prior to reaching out to their teacher(s).

#### **Communication:**

- Students: Every student should check their FCS email EVERYDAY for announcements and communication. Teachers will communicate with students via FCS email and/or class announcements.
- Parents: Teachers will call and/or email as needed to discuss student progress.
- Who to contact in case of an Academic issue: Parents and/or students should contact the teacher first. If the issue is unresolved, the next communication point would be the Department Chair, then the Assistant Principal in charge of the content, then the Principal.
- Who to contact in case of a Social/Emotional issue: Parents and/or students should contact a trusted adult in the building and a counselor. If needed, our School Social Worker may also provide support.

#### **Goals of the Course**

Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the basic chronology of events, concepts, themes, & trends as well as their impact on not only their region but all aspects of the world. Students are expected to develop an understanding of social issues that relate directly and indirectly to their daily lives, the United States and the world.

#### **Media and Films**

Due to the many of the topics covered in this class it is offered only to upperclassmen students. Please review the list of films below and have your parent or guardian review the list and sign the attached permission form. There will be alternative assessments given for students whose parent/guardian do not approve of a particular film.

### **Films and Media to be viewed Death Penalty/ Crime and Punishment**

Angel on Death Row Frontline PBS Inside Man R

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills NR

Select Scenes from Oceans 11, The Italian Job, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Fight Club

### **Religion**

Fall From Grace Westboro Church

Going Clear: Scientology HBO Documentary Angles and Demons PG13

Contact PG

Angles and Demons PG-13

### **Racism, Hate and Anti Semitism**

Select Scenes from Star Trek Original TV show Rated PG

Star Trek - The Original Series, Episode 70: Let That Be Your Last Battlefield Rated PG

The KKK a Secret History the History Channel NR

Grand Torino Rated R

Finding Forrester

Hidden Figures

**(Subject to change)**

### **Self Image**

America the Beautiful Documentary

X-Men: First Class PG13

Serial Killers in Society at large

Silence of the Lambs Rated R

Misery Rated R

Apt Pupil Rated R

**Civil Rights and Social Freedoms**

You Can't Say That ABC News Special Video Surveillance in the UK BBC Special Enemy of the State  
PG-13

V for Vendetta Rated R

**Tolerance**

Finding Forrester PG-13

Bird Cage PG-13

Frankie and Grace TV HBO

**Pop Culture , Privacy Issues and Intellectual Property Social Issues through Comedy**

Teenage Paparazzo Documentary NR The Social Network PG13

The 5<sup>th</sup> Estate PG13

Citizen Four HBO Documentary **Terrorism and War**

Frontline: The Al Qaeda Files Documentary NR PBS Frontline Rumsfeld's War Documentary NR

Body of Lies Rated R

The Green Zone Rated R

**Technology (society, ethics and morals)** PBS Frontline Digital Nation NR Surrogates PG-13

Blade Runner Rated R

I Robot PG-13

Minority Report PG-13

News and internet news sources and clips from YouTube which are readily available from the internet will be shown and or viewed at home or in other locations.

**This list may change due to availability of media as well as due to changes in discussion topics. Since this class is based on social issues current events play a major role in the class thus changes may be made to reflect the world situation.**