

Area Studies

Syllabus

Mr. LeFebre

**Course Outline in a nutshell: I can instruct you, you will teach each other, you will grow yourself.**

Welcome to Area Studies. As you can see there is no book for this class. This class changes from year to year and more often than not, week to week. This class is based purely on discussion and interaction between students. We will be using multiple different mediums in order to discover what is going on in and around the world such as newspapers, magazines, internet websites, apps, and more! We will be looking at events that are taking place in Hettinger High School, Hettinger, North Dakota, the United States, as well as the world.

There is no note taking and there will be no tests in this class. There will be homework every day and you will be working on your researching skills, while applying what you find into real world circumstances. You will also be developing your public speaking skills in this class based on a debate style every other week.

You will be doing a great deal of writing in this class:

- You will be writing a weekly article for a class newspaper that is due every Friday. This newspaper is a class project which will combine all of your writing into one collective piece. Each student will write about separate topics of their choosing (and my approval) about current events from around the globe.
- You will have a journal for this class in which I will give you prompts that you have to write about for the first few minutes of class. I will be grading grammar and organization, not your point of view.
- You will also be assigned writing assignments/research projects in place of tests about situations that we are discussing in class.

You WILL be required to participate in class discussions:

- Every day you will bring in a current event from a newspaper, magazine, or internet source. Make sure that this is school appropriate as well as obtaining it from a reliable source.
- You will be given a daily grade for your current event and the quality of your discussion for other peoples articles (including mine) in order to spur more discussion.
- Ask questions, bring up examples, relate your article to other current events, and tie it into older ones.
- We will debate about certain topics in this class on a weekly basis so make sure you pay attention to the news, and other media sources to gain some background knowledge.
- When we discuss and debate we will be courteous and organized. I will serve as the mediator and if someone has a point of view (no matter how different than yours) you will let them finish and you can then rebuttal. Everyone will be heard in a fair and organized matter.
- If you sit and choose not to participate and ask questions I will remove you from class.

- We will not debate abortion, homosexuality, and other matters that could be tied in with religious concerns.

There will be numerous other projects that include skits, presentations, news programs, commercials, art projects, numerous cultural activities, and creative writing and storytelling assignments. Directions for these will be discussed before the assignment is given. If there is something that you would like to do or try in this class feel free to bring it up so we can make it fit into the schedule. Be creative!

### **Supplies Needed**

One composition notebook

Pen or pencil

Your brain

### **Classroom Rules:**

- 1. Never speak out of turn.**
  - a. Always raise your hand if you want to rebuttal.**
- 2. When working in groups whisper, don't be loud.**
- 3. Swearing is strictly prohibited (I decide what words are bad, not you).**
- 4. Respect your fellow classmates = Do not hurt anybody's feelings.**
- 5. Do not sit on the heater or set things on the heater.**
- 6. Do not play with the windows, shelves, or my desk. These are strictly off limits unless you have permission**
- 7. Your book and notebook is required in class every day. No excuse will work. Your book must be open to where we are discussing so you can participate with the class**
- 8. Bring a writing utensil to class every day. If you need to borrow one from me I will need to borrow something of yours.**
- 9. Do not use cell phones in my class. If I catch you using your phone I will warn you. If I catch you again it belongs to me for the day. You are not being sneaky when you use them, no one stares at their crotch for minutes at a time.**
- 10. Bullying will not be tolerated. If you are bullying you will have detention with me or the principal throughout the day.**
- 11. Late work.**
  - a. Turn in your assignment before the bell rings on the assigned day.**
  - b. If your assignment is due that day is turned in by the end of the school day (your work may be docked.**
  - c. If your assignment is due that day missed the end of the day bell it will be docked points before it is graded.**