



VOICES COURSE SYLLABUS

Department Chair: Joanna Berg (jimberg@naperville203.org)

District 203 Mission

To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors

Social Studies Department Mission:

Our mission is to equip students with knowledge and skills so they can be active global citizens, curious thinkers and empathetic and compassionate human beings through our dynamic teaching and collaboration

Course Description

This course provides students an opportunity to examine the socially and historically marginalized voices which reflect the complexity of our increasingly diverse student body, local community, and worldwide population. Students will examine each group from sociological, psychological, governmental, economic, educational, political, societal and global perspectives. Ultimately, this course will allow students to better understand each other through exploration of a variety of perspectives and stories that make up our society, and through healthy dialogue within and outside the walls of the classroom. Voices uses historical and current works and readings, personal reflections and discussions, projects and guest speakers to dive into the answers to questions about our American reality. The Final is a global perspectives project.

Course Skills

- Visual Literacy (including maps, charts, graphs, political cartoons, and economic data)
- Consumer Economics and Personal Finance Application
- Examination of cause and effect relationships based on economic indicators and trends
- Macro and Micro Economic Analysis
- Textual Analysis
- Claim Writing and identification of appropriate support
- Research Skills including using the library databases

Units of Study & Compelling Questions

Unit 1: Introduction to Voices	Unit 2: History and Government Policy	Unit 3: Education and Economics
<i>How do Good People Fight Bias?</i>	<i>Can we prevent history from repeating itself?</i>	<i>Is success inherited or achieved?</i>
Unit 4: Media and Politics	Unit 5: Society and the Arts	Unit 6: Our World
<i>Who's telling your story?</i>	<i>Is art inclusive or exclusive?</i>	<i>Our world, our reflections, & our actions</i>

Grading Disbursement and Grading Practices

A=100-89.5%, B=89.4-79.5%, C= 79.4-69.5%, D=69.4-59.5%, F=59.4-0%

Semester Grade = Coursework (85%) + Final (15%)

Coursework consists of...

- Practice Work – 10%- Module Work, Notes, Worksheets, etc.
- Evidence Work- 90% - Reading Quizzes, Vocabulary Quizzes, Labs, Papers, Unit Tests & Projects

Grading Practices

At Naperville North we define “Practice” and “Evidence” work as follows:

- Practice work is a fundamental part of the learning and preparation process and will not be accepted after the due date unless specifically requested by the teacher.
- Evidence of learning (Summative or formative assessments) submitted after the due date cannot be penalized more than a total of 10% and must be submitted within 5 school days after the original due date.
- A zero on a summative assessment will only indicate that no attempt was made by the student. OR If a legitimate attempt is made on an assessment, a score of 50% will be the lowest possible grade.
 - Students will be eligible for the 50% floor through timely and consistent completion of practice work and formative assessments.

Reassessment Policy

- The purpose of reassessment is to allow students to demonstrate mastery of course standards in which they remain deficient.
- Students who have demonstrated sufficient learning of the essential standards, but scored below 80% will be allowed reassessment opportunities on summative assessments if they so choose. To be eligible for reassessment, students must
 - Demonstrate readiness for the assessment through timely and consistent completion of practice work and formative assessments.
 - Complete designated learning experiences as assigned by the teacher
- Reassessments MUST be completed within 5 school days of the student receiving feedback unless otherwise determined by the instructor. The reassessment deadline should be communicated in an Infinite Campus comment.
- Project-based assessments that include multiple opportunities for feedback and improvement in the assessment process will represent multiple attempts and be considered a re-assessment.
- Higher reassessment grades will replace the original assessment score (but will not exceed 80-90% selected by the school).

Academic Integrity Code Statement

District 203 students are challenged to address the academic process enthusiastically, diligently, and most importantly, honestly. It is the responsibility of our students, teachers, and administration to uphold the fundamental academic values of honesty, responsibility, fairness, respect and trust. The integrity of our district’s academic programs is built upon these principles.

Academic integrity violations include cheating; plagiarism, self-plagiarism or copy infringement; obtaining or providing an unfair advantage; falsification of documents; unauthorized access to records; and inappropriate collaboration, whether intentional or unintentional. **The classroom teacher and**

administration will collaborate and exercise professional judgment in determining academic integrity violations.

Communication

- You are encouraged to communicate with your teacher regarding questions.
- Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 24 hours during the work week.
- The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven't received a response within 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have been filtered

Films

This course may utilize the use of films to support the learning targets and essential standards of the course. Any permission slip will be sent home (via hardcopy or through Infinite Campus) for any film that is Rated R and an alternative assignment and/or learning experience will be provided for students who choose not to view the film.

Field Trips

The field trips are designed to enrich the learning experience of the students to make more solid connections to the content of the course. **The field trips, while such great learning experiences, are a privilege.** Students must be passing all of their classes and in compliance with our attendance policy in order to qualify for the field trip experience

Additional Resources for Support

- You can make an appointment with your teacher should they need additional instruction or support in learning material.
- You can attend your teachers WIN sessions to review material or work on mastery of content
- Peer Tutoring is provided during all Lunch periods in the Literacy Center

Parents or Guardians

Naperville North believes in a collective partnership with parents/guardians which provides students the best opportunities for success.

We encourage students and parents to:

- Actively check Infinite Campus for their student's grade.
 - Infinite Campus is a tool to progress monitor student work until the final course grade is posted.
 - Monthly progress grades are posted and represent the current grade of a student in the course at that moment in time.
- Discuss missing assignments, reiterate due dates, help organize folders, materials, assignment notebooks and review upcoming projects and assessments.

Classroom Policies and Expectations

Communicate	Collaborate:	Manage Your Time:	Think Critically:
Take the initiative to communicate with the instructor about questions,	Positively & acutely engage with peers to learn, grow and develop together in the course.	Manage time responsibly by including anticipated assignments, conflicts, &	Critically engage in thought, question asking, & problem

absences, conflicts, & other types of support.		commitments to complete work on time. Be on time to class.	solving while practicing sound decision-making.
Practice Digital Citizenship:	Give Your Best Effort:	Have Mindful Conversations:	Come to Class Prepared:
Responsibly use technology such as computers, the internet, & other digital devices when engaging with others.	Provide consistent effort including developing a daily routine, create & submit original work, & maintain a positive attitude	Listen to others with an open mind, give constructive feedback, and always be sure to disagree with respect.	Bring a charged chromebook, pen/pencil, notebook, and headphones that work with your chromebook each day. Cell phones should be silent and put away during class.