



# Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

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## Contemporary Issues in Race, Poverty, Healthcare, & Crime 2014-2015

### Course Description:

Contemporary Issues is a semester course that explores how the United States and the International Community address the issues of Race, Poverty, Healthcare, and Crime. Students will examine the current challenges these issues present to the United States and other nations, along with analyzing the government policies that are in place to manage them. The goal of the seminar structure will be to facilitate student-centered investigation, discussion, and problem solving for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners.

### Course Content:

Race: perceptions and challenges

Crime: incarceration challenges, drug policy, and race

Poverty: relationship to crime, race, programs, and federal responses

Healthcare: human rights, Affordable Healthcare Act, and equality

### Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

While there is not an assigned textbook, students will be introduced to each of the topics using materials from the *Choices for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Program*, where applicable. Other materials will include the *New York Times' Upfront* magazine, current news articles, *TED* talks, and documentaries.

### Course Requirements:

Students are expected to be open to new ideas and theories, think critically, and link information learned through the course to their lives and the world around them. All are required to complete their assignments, work independently and with their peers, participate in class discussions, and prepare for assessments.

### Grade Components/Assessments:

Summative assessments: 60%

Homework: 20%

In-class assignments and participation: 20%

Each marking period is worth 40% of a student's overall grade. The final exam is worth 20% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	40%
Quarter 2	40%
<b>Final</b>	<b>20%</b>

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:  
There are no summer readings or assignments.