# **Issues in American Society Tappan Zee High School**

**Course Description**

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Issues in American Society! We are excited about your participation in the 12th grade Social Studies program at Tappan Zee High School. This is a unique course that has been created especially for students like you, who have demonstrated and expressed an interest in the challenges facing us all in the 21st century. Each individual will have the opportunity to develop the curriculum and course content, as he or she suggests and selects areas of study for the class, as well as, for him or herself.

Topics at the local, state, national, and international levels may be subject to scrutiny. Because of the scope and nature of the course, issues may evolve and be classified as short, medium, or long-term concerns. On occasion, there may arise a news story that requires and deserves immediate attention and examination.

The course will be conducted in such a way that each individual will be afforded the opportunity to actively participate in those areas of his or her choice and make a positive contribution to the class. This will be an exciting and dynamic experience for us all. Basically, the class will involve each student reading, researching, writing, and discussing those topics being examined. In so doing, students will use and develop those skills necessary for research, analytical analysis, and the ability to express oneself in both written and verbal form.

Daily discussion will be supplemented by formal debates and presentations. Comprehensive details and instructions will be given at a later date. We will do all that we can to be sure you have a rich, productive, and positive learning experience.

Best of Luck,

Mr. Ferraro

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# **Requirements**

1. Adequate preparation of outside materials (reading, research, written assignments, etc.) for classroom activities.
2. Positive involvement in classroom discussions.
3. Respecting others ideas.
4. Using classroom time in a meaningful way.
5. Fulfilling classroom requirements within the specific time allotted.

**Responsibilities**

1. Daily – Media Sources: Reading assignments -on a daily basis- newspapers and reprints of articles and selections from various sources, T.V. (news, shows), radio, public forums.

2. Class Participation – class discussions, debates, note taking, group work.

3. Projects – written and oral.

4. Research

5. Presentation

6. Evaluation – formal test (objective, essay), alternative assessments (presentation, demonstration).

7. Quality and contribution to class discussion and atmosphere.

# **Grading Policy**

The quarterly grades will be weighted as follows:

Class Participation/Work 25%

Current Event Activity 25%

Homework 25%

Assessments/Writing 25%