**Class Expectations: International Studies (Gov/Econ)**

**Instructor: Brian Burak**

**Office Hours: 2A, 3B**

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**Websites: Schoology Course Page;** <https://burakpsych.weebly.com/international-studies.html>

**Course Details**

Welcome to International Studies! This is a yearlong course disguised on Power School as two distinct semesterized courses called US Government & Economics. We madea decision as a program to create this course ourselves, but the title does not exist in PS, unfortunately. The purpose of this course is to challenge your knowledge & understanding of the world, develop critical thinking skills, and introduce you to the culture and skills we value and promote at UAIS. No matter your past experience with Social Studies courses, I guarantee you will get something out of this class. The content of this course has a clear impact on our world, our country and specifically your life in a lot of meaningful, tangible ways.

**Topics**

* Current Events, Intro to IB Critical Thinking, Culture, Religion, Personal Economics, Global Issues – including human rights and climate change and more. We will also discuss US Government & Politics fairly often especially since this is a Presidential election year.

**Navigating Schoology**

* A little unclear how this will work for UAIS at the moment. Most likely one page per subject area, not section. This is the launchpad for all classwork. Information will be posted in a folder for each day’s lessons/documents, links etc. as necessary.

**Attendance & Grading**

* Attendance is taken daily at the start of class. If you leave and do not return or are gone for extended periods of time, that will be noted addressed.
* International Studies is a no-homework class. This is a participatory class and your grade is based on how well you participate during class hours. This means working on whatever is assigned in class, actively engaging in whole class and small group discussions, completing in class assignments on time, sharing current events etc. See the rubric on the website.

**How Assessments Work**

* Since IS is a no homework class, there will not be any test or quizzes either. We are required to have a midterm and final but those will be done as projects conducted “in class”

**How to Get Help from Burak**

* Email is the best way to get help from me during asynchronous learning (i.e. – working on an assignment on your own), though you may still be able to ask me a question via video or char feature as well. I have 3 kids learning from home as well, so I will not be very responsive after school hours because I need to help them. Not to mention this is not a 24-hour job and I have to have a life. My email is brian.burak@uticak12.org

**My Expectations for Students in Class**

* Be respectful, be reasonable, be responsible. That should cover basically everything behaviorally.
* You are expected to come prepared every day and to engage deeply with the material. This is a no homework course, so what you do in class is how you will be evaluated. You will need to stay organized - I will be utilizing articles, journals, case studies, and handouts in class that you will need to keep. The course will use lectures, discussions, projects and other and participatory learning styles so that everyone’s needs are met. I want you focused on learning, not on grades (and no, they are not the same thing).
* Most importantly, the class will challenge you to question and rethink (or examine for the first time) your own ideals about politics, global issues, human rights, culture, policy, government, economics etc., how these things do/should operate, and your role in those systems. To that end, we will spend a good chunk of time discussing current events. This class has significant application to your life & I guarantee you will see the value in this class before you’re done. In essence, I want you to grow in awareness & conscientiousness to become what I call an **intentional citizen**, not just of our country, but of the world.

**District’s Student Online Expectations:**

* Mute yourself unless instructed to do otherwise
* Listen for teacher expectations
* Be on time
* Turn on camera
* Come prepared
* Be respectful
* Find a quiet place to work
* Raise your hand to talk and wait your turn (depending on circumstances this may not be necessary)
* Use chat to ask questions
* Be presentable
* Inform me in advance if you are running late or not attending class
* Be patient – we may need to wait for all students to complete an activity before moving on. Use extra time to stretch or take a break
* Do not share meeting links with others
* Use your real name – do not use a nickname or aliases
* Turn off your video when attending to other matters

Please note: No video, audio, photo, or written comments can be posted, tweeted, sent, or linked to any electronic, print, or audio media without the expressed written consent of Brian Burak prior to the posting, tweeting, messaging, or linking of said content.