Global Studies Capstone

[www.rhscapstone.weebly.com](http://www.rhscapstone.weebly.com)

Contact Information:

Mrs. Mahar

Room: Lab 8

Phone: 770-1108

Email: amahar@rutlandhs.k12.vt.us

Ms. Cassel

Room: Red 26

Phone: 770-1228

Email:mcassel@rutlandhs.k12.vt.us

Mr. Weideman

Room: Café 1

Phone: 770-1065

Email: tweideman@rutlandhs.k12.vt.us

Course Description:

This course is a global studies capstone research seminar delivered within the context of the Civics & Economics curriculum. You must demonstrate mastery in the following standards to be successful in this course in addition to your independent capstone research topic:

1. **The student will be able to identify the factors that create wealth and poverty while analyzing its effects on the individual and the world around them.**
2. **The student will be able to develop a plan for their own financial future for when they enter the work force.**
3. **The student will be able to analyze how the free market system operates while evaluating both the positives and negatives of the system.**
4. **The student will be able to compare and contrast the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our democracy.**
5. **The student will be able to identify the origins of the United States government and discuss the different levels of government and how they function.**

Students choose a global topic they are interested in and conduct research to learn more about the topic. Students are responsible for documenting their research, thinking on a blog, creating a culminating product to reflect their learning, and acting on their findings. The product is determined by the student and based on their interests and topic. The students will present their finished product in multiple venues; to peers, a panel of adults, at the GIN conference, at the Global Studies/STEM Fair, etc.

Course Goals:

● Conduct research

● Analyze the complexities and interdependence of world events and issues

● Form opinions based on exploration and evidence

● Articulate and explain perspectives

● Consider the origins of perspectives and the circumstances in which they arose

● Write, speak, and design in a way that is clear and persuasive

● Publically present information in a way that is clear and persuasive

● Share knowledge with others

● Collaborate with people in many different settings

● View yourself as able to help solve global challenges

● Reflect on your actions and the impact they might have

● Cultivate global citizenship dispositions and values

Required Materials:

● A three ring binder

* Earbuds

● Lined paper, either in a notebook or loose leaf

● A writing implement (pen/pencil/marker)

● Research blog

● Access to the internet - at school, on your phone, or at home

If you have trouble getting any of these, please speak with me as soon as possible.

Work Habits:

● Abide by Work Habits proficiency scales

Assessment & Assignments:

● All of your work will be graded according to standards. You will receive the scales that indicate four levels of proficiency early in the semester. They are also available on the website.

● You are expected to write on your blog at least 2 times each week and to comment on at least 1 of your classmates’ blog posts. These are public documents, so your writing should be appropriate and formal.

Blog Entry Expectations

Frequency

Each week you need to complete at least 2 blogs that might be relate to:

* topic development
* research related
* reflective
* teacher directed

Length

Your entries should be thoughtful and complete. These are public documents; your writing should be appropriate and formal.

Commenting on other blogs

You also need to comment on at least one blog entry by your classmates each week.

Feedback

Each week you will receive feedback on your posts.

● All of the preliminary work will count for 50% of your grade. The final public presentation of your product will count for 50% of your grade. You are required to present your final product at the following public venues: GIN Conference and the Global Studies/STEM Fair. Failure to do this will (retroactively) diminish your grade.

Final Presentation Details

FAQs:

* **Length**: 15 minutes with 5 mins Q & A with audience afterwards
* **Dress**: You need to wear business attire for this. Dress up and dress appropriately.
* **Location**: TBD
* **Visual aids**: You need at least one visual aid. It needs to be edited and not overly text heavy. It should be aesthetically pleasing and add to your presentation (not just reiterate what you are already saying). If you have links or videos, check them multiple times, including the night before and day of the presentation to ensure they still work. If you need to get through the firewall to get to the site/video make sure you and we know that ahead of time.
* **Tech requirements**: You need to figure this out and have things ready to go for your practice presentation. Based on this practice, you may modify your needs. You need to let us know well in advance what your tech requirements are.
* **Physical product to be displayed**: You need to figure this out and have things ready to go for your practice presentation. Based on this practice, you may modify your needs. You need to let us know well in advance what you need from us. If you need to hand things out, be sure to have these photocopied well in advance of the presentation.
* **Other people’s presentations**: You also need to attend at least 3 other people’s final presentations.

Evaluation:

* Consult the proficiency scales on the website.
* Your final product and presentation will be evaluated by 3 people.
	+ You can choose one of the people. You should make this choice and let us know who this as soon as possible.
	+ One will be a random faculty member. We will let you know who this will be well in advance.

Remember who your audience is. They may not have any background in your topic, so don’t assume they understand things you take for granted. Also, your presentation needs to be geared to the demographic of your audience.

**Capstone Final Presentation Specifications**

It should

* Explain why it matters to you and more importantly why it is important to others

-make the global issues connection

-make local connections

-draw people in by educating and exciting them

* Be clear and understandable to anyone
* Highlight your research
* Highlight your findings/results
* Reference your action plan or product
* Utilize technology, for example PowerPoint or Prezi (supporting of your oral presentation)

Examples of Possible Products resulting from your research:

* Paper
* Video or short film
* Digitally created infographic (glogster, piktochart, Pages, etc.)
* Public Service Announcement
* Website (expanded from required course assignment)
* Oral History – audio, video, etc.
* Podcast
* Graphic novel addressing your issue
* Original artwork or music
* Original play
* Action plan for how you will educate others about the issue and effect positive change
* TED Talk

● You are responsible for working productively in class and completing all assignments on time.

**Standards Referenced Grading Conversion Chart:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Average Score Across Standards** | **Final Grade** |
| 3.75- 4.00 | 97-100 |
| 3.26-3.74 | 94-96 |
| 3.00-3.25 | 90-93 |
| 2.84-2.99 | 86-89 |
| 2.67-2.83 | 83-85 |
| 2.50-2.66 | 80-82 |
| 2.34-2.49 | 76-79 |
| 2.17-2.33 | 73-75 |
| 2.00-2.16 | 70-72 |
| 1.76-1.99 | 66-69 |
| 1.26-1.75 | 63-65 |
| 1.00-1.25 | 60-62 |
| Below 1.00 | 59-0 |