

**Grade 12 Course Outline**  
**Global Issues: Citizenship and Sustainability**

**Objectives:** This course seeks to acquire knowledge and understanding and think critically about our complex and changing world. In doing so, we will learn to participate in local, national, and global communities. We will also build self-knowledge and be conscious of connections to nature and society and finally, learn to live peacefully with others and to care for our common homeland. Being a Christian school, the course will also deliberately seek to see how the church's calling to partner with God in bringing about the Kingdom of God on earth can be achieved in light of the call of Jesus to bring "good news" to the world.

**Topics of Discussion:** There are ten areas under review which include the following: media, consumerism, environment, poverty/wealth/power, indigenous peoples, peace/conflict, oppression/genocide, health/biotechnology, gender politics, and social justice/human rights. It is impossible to cover all topics. We will seek to cover about half, according at least somewhat to the interests of the class.

**Enduring Understandings:** the following are the ten enduring understandings we hope to carry with us beyond the classroom.

- 1- our ecological footprint is exceeding Earth's capacity to sustain biodiversity and human life.
- 2- our decisions and actions matter; they have social, environmental, economic, and political consequences.
- 3- individuals, groups, governments, and corporations have the power to effect change and the responsibility to contribute to a sustainable future.
- 4- the media do not provide neutral reflections of reality; they affect our decisions and actions.
- 5- a global economic system that depends upon and perpetuates unrestrained consumerism is unsustainable.
- 6- economic and technological development has contributed greatly to society, but often with harmful human and environmental consequences.
- 7- indigenous knowledge and world views offer alternatives to prevailing assumptions about how to live with one another within the environment.
- 8- political systems distribute power, privilege, and wealth in different ways, some more justly than others.
- 9- a just society respects human diversity and recognizes universal, equal, and inalienable human rights.
- 10- there is no *them* or *over there*: we all belong to the human species, our concerns are interdependent, and we are part of the natural world.

**Taking Action:** A component of the course is the planning and implementation of a community-based action/research project.

**Methodology:** Much of the material is designed to be of a self inquiry mode. You will do much of the research for the various topics. Please see the enclosed Global Issues Grading Page for in depth detail.

**Classroom Expectations:** we create in the classroom a just society. It is a living, breathing organism and we always discuss what is best for the people. This can and should be an ongoing discussion.