

World Affairs (WA1) – 5 Weeks - John Ziegler

Class Schedule

Summer session I; Mondays & Wednesdays (10am - 11:50am); on Zoom; Total: 20 hours.

Fees: \$265

Course Description

The course will help students understand what is happening in the world today. But more importantly, it aims to help students understand why it is happening and how to see these events and circumstances from a variety of perspectives. Class topics may change based on changing current events. Homework includes selected readings and videos to prepare them for a class divided between teacher led presentation and class discussion. Students will on occasion prepare presentations and engage in debates or defend positions.

Week 1: Three Different Ways of Seeing the World – Immigration and Demographics

Why is immigration at the southern border of the United States such a contentious issue? What are some of the demographic problems that countries are facing today? We will explore these and more from different perspectives.

Week 2: North Korea and South Korea: A Tale of Two Countries

Why have these two countries developed so differently? What is the risk of conflict? What are the possible scenarios for change and for peace?

Week 3: Burma/Myanmar

Ongoing civil war, a refugee crisis, and a military junta re-taking control after democratization – what is the future of this country, and what, if anything should be done about it?

Week 4: Denuclearization and the Case of Iran

How can we reduce the risk of nuclear annihilation, and how should Iran be treated? Do countries have the right to develop nuclear weapons for their own defense? Who should decide?

Week 5: US-China Relations

The most important relationship in the world is now at its lowest point, since perhaps ever. How can these two countries co-exist and what are the issues at hand?

About John Ziegler

John Ziegler has been teaching at Ray Chinese School for two years and has taught a wide number of English classes to grades two through eight. Additionally, he teaches a World Affairs course and has taught Speech and SAT Prep. Mr. Ziegler also works at a human rights organization where he teaches Citizenship and English to refugees and asylum seekers. Prior to his work in Chicago, Mr. Ziegler taught Middle School English, High School Economics, And Algebra II for six years in various schools and programs in Thailand.