**Teache**r: Mr. Matthew Baker **Room**: 122 **Class Period**: 1st Block, 8:15-9:45 **E-mail**: [mbaker@cocke.k12.tn.us](mailto:mbaker@cocke.k12.tn.us) **Class Website**: www.mrmbakersclass.weebly.com

**Course Description**: Students will use inquiry skills to examine the issues that impact the

contemporary world. Included in the course will be analysis of the historical, cultural,

economic, and geographic factors that have raised certain issues to levels of concern both

nationally and worldwide. Students will engage in research and problem solving in order

to better understand and assess significant current issues.

**Books:** *The Vietnam Experience by Edgar C. Doleman, Jr. and the Boston Publishing Company*

*Copyright 1984*

**Supplies**: 2 1 inch 3 ring binders (one for assignments, one for research project), a spiral notebook (for notetaking) or notebook paper, pencils or pens, colored pencils

*Students will need poster board and other supplies for various class projects as the semester progresses*

**Grading Policy**: Grades for the class will come from class work, quizzes, unit and map tests, homework, notebooks, participation, and group and individual projects. Late assignments will lose points and missing assignments will be considered zeros. The final grade in the class consists of two nine week grades and a final exam. Grades will be available on the ASPEN Portal. Each 9 weeks’ grade will be composed of the following – **50% assignments, tests, 35% participation; 15% weekly current events binder.**

**Attendance Policy**: Students should try to achieve perfect attendance, however, when they are absent, they must master the material they missed in class. Students who have excessive absences will be reported to the county truancy officer and may be sited to court, where they will be responsible for court fees. For excused absences, students should bring a note to the office. For school-related absences, students must inform Mr. Baker ahead of time. Missing more than fifteen minutes of class is considered an absence. It is impossible to earn a good participation grade if you are not present to participate, even if the absences are excused.

**Tardy Policy**: Students are tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the bell rings. This will follow Mr. Baker’s point system as has been outlined.

**Make-Up Policy**: When students are absent from class, they are expected to make up any and all missed work. It is the student’s responsibility to find out what was missed and arrange a time to make up work. It is best to make up tests **BEFORE** school. Students will not be allowed to make-up tests during the school day. For daily work, students will need to get copies of notes from classmates. Make-up work should be turned in to the student’s class box. Unless other arrangements are made ahead of time, students have the number of days missed to make up missed assignments.

**Computer Use**: Students are required to turn in an internet fair usage form in order to be allowed to use the internet for projects. You will be needing your Chromebook for this class. You are expected to be on task when using your laptop only doing other things if previously approved.

**There is a no cell phone policy in this school**. You are not to be on your phone for any reason without express permission from me. If you have an issue you may discuss this with Mrs. Murrell. You will turn your cell phones off and put them in the drawer designated by me to be returned at the end of class.

Grading Scale:

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 75-84 D 70-74 F 0-69

Inquiry Skills:

The student will develop proficiency in using the skills and tools of inquiry.

CI.1 Analyze the use of persuasion, argument, and dispute when discussing current issues.

CI.2 Compare reason versus rationalization.

CI.3 Distinguish between facts and inferences, and evaluate the relevance of data.

CI.4 Define deduction, induction, and fallacy and exhibit reasoning and comprehension of

these terms.

CI.5 Define amoral reasoning and immoral reasoning.

CI.6 Identify and research, formulate a hypothesis, and propose solutions for a selected current

event problem in an argumentative essay.

The Impact of Individuals, Groups, and Organizations on

Contemporary Events

The student will analyze the roles played by individuals, groups, and organizations on

contemporary events and issues.

CI.7 Examine how groups and individuals influence solutions to society’s problems. (C, P)

CI.8 Analyze the role of media in shaping world events and influencing public opinion. (C, P)

CI.9 Analyze types, patterns, and attitudes regarding discrimination. (C)

CI.10 Identify various contemporary religious perspectives on social issues. (C)

CI.11 Identify and explain current crucial issues and the relevant groups and individuals

involved in these issues in the United States and globally, including the creation of a media

presentation that integrates multiple sources of information on one such issue. (C, E, G, H, P)

The Impact of History, Geography, Economics, and Politics on

Contemporary Events

The student will analyze the relationship between history, geography, and politics and

contemporary events and issues.

CI.12 Distinguish between historical facts and historical interpretations. (H, P)

CI.13 Trace and explain the historical development of a problem. (C, E, G, H, P)

CI.14 Recognize the impact of traumatic effects of destructive events on human society. (C, G,

H)

CI.15 Describe the relationships between historical events and contemporary issues. (C, E, G, H,

P)

CI.16 Identify and explain the connection between geography and issues of culture, economics,

and politics. (C, E, G, H, P)

CI.17 Cite specific textual evidence to analyze the impact of cultural differences in seeking

solutions to current event situations. (C, H)

CI.18 Define sources of government revenues and types of expenditures. (E, P)

CI.19 Identify popular perception of government revenues and expenditures. (E, P)

CI.20 Compare and contrast the interests of investors versus corporate management. (E)

CI.21 Assess the global impact of technology. (C, E, G)

CI.22 Integrate information from diverse sources to write an expository piece that analyzes the

rights and responsibilities of a citizen in the United States today. (C, P)

CI.23 Analyze the roles of the individual and the government in promoting the general welfare

of the community under the Constitution. (C, P)

CI.24 Describe the protections offered by the First Amendment and define civil disobedience.

(C, P)

CI.25 Cite specific textual evidence to compare and contrast American civil liberties with those

of citizens in other nations. (C, P)

CI.26 Examine an election and analyze its results. (P)

CI.27 Evaluate the various factors that affect a nation’s economy. (E, P)

CI.28 Explain and analyze the major implications of local, national, and international events.

(E, G, P)

CI.29 Describe the current relationship the United States has with certain nations, notably Iran,

North Korea, Cuba, and Mexico. (C, E, G, H, P)

Understanding and Solving Issues of the Contemporary World

The student will analyze selected contemporary events and issues.

CI.30 Evaluate the premises, claims, and evidence presented by various authors to compare and

contrast points of view on a given current events situation. (C, E, G, H, P)

CI.31 Propose solutions to critical problems and evaluate the impact of their proposed solutions

by integrating multiple sources of information from diverse formats and media into a formal

presentation that includes a short research paper. (C, E, G, H, P)

Topics to consider may include:

Compare and contrast views on choice (abortion) for women.

Examine the role that diversity plays in college admission policies.

Define affirmative action and its justification.

Explain the controversy regarding the use of cell phones while driving.

Examine censorship.

Analyze the debate over the legalization of gay marriage.

Analyze the issue of gun ownership and control in the United States.

Assess the effectiveness of the death penalty.

Examine the pros and cons of the legalization of drug sales.

Describe euthanasia and doctors’ intervention at the end of life.

Examine the impact of global warming

# Classroom Expectations from Mr. Baker

**Be on time.** You should be in your assigned seat when the bell rings. The school tardy policy will be enforced in this classroom. You have plenty of time between classes to get from one place to another and stop for a bathroom break or drink of water. If you are late because of another teacher, bring a note signed by the teacher. **Remember! Three tardies equal one absence!**

**Be prepared.** Every day, you will need your textbook, paper, a working writing utensil, your homework, and your brain. If you get to class and realize you have forgotten something, you will be expected to go get it. It will be considered a tardy if you are not back by the time the bell rings.

## Be respectful of the rights and properties of yourself and others. There is a strict NO BULLYING OF ANY KIND POLICY IN THIS CLASS. I will not listen to it or tolerate it you will be asked to leave.

**Be aware of the school rules.** All rules that are in your student handbook will be enforced in this class, including dress code, attendance and cell phone policy. You are responsible for anything you bring into this class if you brought it in then you are required to take it back out with you. Any mess you make you are responsible for you. I am not responsible for your mess. You are young adults so be responsible as such.

**Be a young adult.** Treat the teacher and your class mates as you would want to be treated. Whining, Complaining, and drama are not acceptable in my classroom. If you want to waste your time and take a nap you are only hurting yourself and it is very disrespectful to me and your classmates.

## Consequences

Possible consequences will include but not be limited to copying material from the text book, verbal reprimands, temporary removal from the classroom, deduction of classroom points, and office referrals. Bad behavior when a guest or substitute is in the classroom will result in more severe consequences.

## Bathroom Breaks

We will be taking bathroom breaks as a class in an attempt to limit the number of people in the hallways during class. Halfway through class we will take a restroom break and give you an attempt to stretch your legs for a few minutes. This is your opportunity the only exception to this rule will be absolute emergencies which will be limited so make sure to use them wisely.

Return for 10 Bonus Points

I have read the syllabus and rules for Mr. Baker’s classroom. I understand what is expected of me (my student).

Student Name Date

Parent Signature Date