

# Contemporary Issues - Tennessee State Standards

*Course Description:* In *Contemporary Issues*, students study various dynamic issues facing today's society enabling them to discover their values and responsibilities as citizens in that society. The course will utilize six social studies standards of essential content knowledge and four process skills are integrated for instructional purposes. Students will utilize different learning methods to research, discuss, debate and formulate opinions on those contemporary issues.

## **1.0 Culture**

Culture encompasses similarities and differences among people, including their beliefs, knowledge, changes, values, and tradition. Students will explore these elements of society to develop an appreciation of and respect for the variety of human cultures.

## **2.0 Economics**

Globalization of the economy, the explosion of population growth, technological changes, and international competition compel students to understand, both personally, and globally, production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Students will examine and analyze economic concepts such as basic needs versus wants, using versus saving money, and policy making versus decision making.

## **3.0 Geography**

Geography enables the students to see, understand and appreciate the web of relationships between people, places, and environments. Students will use the knowledge, skills, and understanding of concepts within the six essential elements of geography: world in spatial terms, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and the use of geography.

## **4.0 Governance and Civics**

Governance establishes structures of power and authority in order to provide order and stability. Civic efficacy requires understanding rights and responsibilities, ethical behavior, and the role of citizens within their community, nation, and world.

## **5.0 History**

History involves people, events, and issues. Students will evaluate evidence to develop comparative and causal analyses and to interpret primary sources. They will construct sound historical arguments and perspectives on which informed decision in contemporary life can be based.

## **6.0 Individuals, Groups, and Interactions**

Personal development and identity are shaped by factors including culture, groups, and institutions. Central to this development are exploration, identification, and analysis of how individuals and groups work independently and cooperatively.