



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

<p>Course Title: Global and Personal Action (GPA)</p>	<p>Teachers: Mr. Chris Vassbotn cvassbotn@tisweb.net Mr. Nicholas Schirmer nshirmer@tisweb.net Mr. Jordan Nogaki jnogaki@tisweb.net Mr. Zane Clifford zclifford@tisweb.net</p>
<p>Level: Grades 7 through 12 (various groupings)</p>	<p>Time Frame: 37 weeks</p>
<p>Brief Course Description: The GPA course was designed to help students realize they can make a difference by empowering them to bring awareness and develop action toward global and personal issues. The course is intended to allow students to drive the direction of their learning within a framework of various tangible products. Current events, time management and personal reflection are an essential part of this course.</p>	
<p>Course Philosophy: Learning at TIS extends beyond content within the core courses offered. Students need stimulation to extend their thinking to include personal, local, regional, national and global perspectives. A broad knowledge and experience base will empower students to solve complex issues in order to have a positive impact on the society in which they live.</p>	
<p>Course Objectives: <i>The aims of the GPA course are to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide students with the autonomy to investigate issues which are relevant to them • encourage students to follow and promote the TIS STARS • encourage an action component through the creation of various tangible products • provide opportunities for inquiry into relevant Global and Personal issues • develop student initiative and independence • develop an awareness of current events • Allow students to reflect upon their learning thereby deepening their understanding 	
<p>Assessments: Tangible Product(s) (90%) Learning Skills (10%)</p> <p><u>Tangible Products</u> During the course of each semester, each unit will have Tangible Products (TPs) to complete. These will vary throughout the year. Students will be assigned an advisory teacher whom they will work with for the duration of the set TP. Each TP will be equally weighted.</p> <p><u>Learning Skills</u> Attendance, organization, homework completion and the ability to take initiative and work independently and in groups all play a role in student success and are important for achieving the course expectations.</p>	

Tohoku International School:

A community of learners preparing for life in an evolving global society

Global and Personal Action (GPA) cont'd

Absences:

- ❖ As this course is largely project based, work is expected to be completed in order to present your project within the given timeframe, regardless of short term absences.
- ❖ In the event of an anticipated absence (extracurricular competition, appointment, family trip, etc.), students are expected to discuss the absence with their advisory teacher at least 1 day prior to leaving. Longer absences should be discussed at least one week in advance of the absence.

Course Specific Materials Required:

*** please note that for specific projects, students may be asked to purchase materials (e.g., poster board etc.)