**Understanding the Times**

**Syllabus**

**2014-2015**

 Mr. Myers

WMS

**I. Description**

 Ideas are to life what notes are to music. Ideas about God, human beings, truth, right and wrong, history, the meaning of existence, and other things control how people live. In our world, we are surrounded by innumerable ideas; some true and good, some untrue and evil, and some a mixture of both. We have to learn to think in order to distinguish between the good and the bad, and ultimately between a productive, God- honoring life and a meaningless, blasphemous life. This class takes the student on a rigorous pilgrimage in search of truth and the good life.

**II. Objectives – By the end of the year, the student will be able to…**

1. Describe the basic beliefs of each of the following worldviews: Christianity, Islam, secular humanism, Marxism, cosmic humanism (New Age), and postmodernism.
2. Analyze the practices of society (and his own) and identify the true beliefs behind the behavior
3. Talk about some influential people in the world of ideas
4. Explain why Christians believe what they do
5. Understand why non-Christians think and behave the way they do, and as a result, be able to relate to them more effectively
6. Resist being duped by Satan’s salesmen
7. Use his mind more effectively than at the beginning of the year

**III. Requirements and procedures**

1. Think, think, THINK! Ask questions and then think, think, think some more
2. Discussions will be common in this class—one of the key methods of learning
3. Daily assignments are due by the next class period, at which time they’ll be checked
4. We will apply the ideas we are studying to make sense of the current events going on around us—Wednesday will be a day we spend some time on this
5. Personal Statement of Beliefs project
6. Class on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

 **IV. Grading Policy**

 -Projects 40%

 -Tests 60%