Great Decisions 2015 Syllabus

Great Decisions is an ongoing current events course that is new each spring and repeats in the fall. It is a nationwide series produced by the Foreign Policy Association. It airs on many PBS stations.

The course format is a 25 minute DVD presentation/class on a single topic. The class is a small group (<60) who sit in the round and then discuss the subject after the DVD presentation from their points of view. The instructor controls the discussion while adding information as necessary. A Great Decisions Study Guide is sold at cost to the class ($17 last year) to read in advance for eight of the topics which greatly enhances the knowledge of the students prior to the discussion. The instructors supplement the study guide with current newspaper and magazine articles.

Topics from the 2015 series covered by the study guide are:

* Russia and the Near Abroad
* Privacy in the Digital Age
* Sectarianism in the Middle East
* India Changes Course
* U.S. Policy Toward Africa
* Syria's Refugee Crisis
* Human Trafficking in the 21st Century
* Brazil's Metamorphosis

Five supplemental special topics will be taken from older yet timely programs and alternative sources.