

SOCIAL STUDIES 11: EXPLORATIONS

Course Outline

Course Introduction

This course is intended to serve as a basis for future study in Senior Humanities elective courses. Each unit introduces a subject matter and will serve as a building block for a grade 12 course that you can continue to study in, if you so choose. Each section will outline the Big Ideas that have been targeted for that section. Assignments are intended to build upon skills learned in lessons to allow students to investigate these issues with their own research.

In this course you will gain the skills to look critically, reflectively, and ethically into the challenges facing citizens around the globe. These abilities will help you develop responses that are based on informed analysis of evidence and on an understanding of your biases and responsibilities. These skills will further provide a realization of the consequences of your choices in your everyday life for yourself and others locally, nationally, and globally.

Big Ideas

Central to the delivery of modern curriculum is the focus on "Big Ideas." The big ideas consist of generalizations and principles and the key concepts important in an area of learning. They reflect the "understand" component of the know-do-understand model of learning. The big ideas represent what students will understand at the completion of the curriculum for their grade. They are intended to endure beyond a single grade and contribute to future understanding.

Each unit, in this course, will begin with an introduction that includes the targeted "Big Ideas" for that unit. For any questions, concerns, or additional inquiries, please contact that course instructor.

Curricular Competencies

Students are expected to be able to do the following:

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions
- Assess the significance of people, places, events, phenomena, ideas, or developments (significance)
- Assess the credibility and justifiability of evidence, data, and interpretations (evidence)
- Compare and contrast continuities and changes, trends and patterns, or similarities and differences for different people, places, events, phenomena, ideas, or developments (continuity and change)
- Assess the short- and long-term causes and expected and unexpected consequences of people's actions, events, phenomena, ideas, or developments (cause and consequence)
- Infer and explain different perspectives on people, places, events, phenomena, ideas, or developments (perspective)
- Make reasoned ethical judgments about people, places, events, phenomena, ideas, or developments and determine appropriate ways to respond (ethical judgment)

Units of Study:

Unit 1 – Political and Social Philosophy

Unit 2 – Political Studies

Unit 3 – 20th Century World History

Unit 4 – Human Geography

Unit 5 – Contemporary Indigenous Studies

Unit 6 – Social Justice

Assignments

Although there are no “due dates” for assignments, it is important to remember that you have signed up to enrol in an online course – you have signed up to take responsibility for your own learning! You are, ultimately, responsible for ensuring that assignments are submitted on a consistent basis. As a general rule of thumb, students have ten months to complete the course.

Assessment

This is a senior level course and, as such, will build upon skills and process learned in previous grades. It is, therefore, assumed that students have developed some proficiencies with respect to writing, and have experience presenting information in a formal capacity.

Re-Submitting Assignments

Typically, re-submitting assignments is not permitted in this course. This is due to the fact that students who choose to enrol in an online course have access to extensive resources that student’s who enrol in traditional classroom settings do not have. In addition, online learning is self-paced – this provides students with as much time as they need to produce high-quality submissions.

If you are concerned about your performance on an assignment, rest-assured that you and I can work together to find an agreeable solution. Keeping in line with best-practices, students will be formatively assessed throughout the course – as a result, your final grade will be a reflection of progress and learning throughout the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarising, a “zero” will be issued for that assignment with not opportunity to re-submit.

Course Completion

If you require a grade by a certain date (for applications, entrance, scholarships, etc...) **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM ME** and ensure that all work is completed with adequate time left to mark and issue a final grade. Typically, I require **AT LEAST** one week to finalise a grade.

I will never issue a final grade without confirming with student’s first. There should be no surprises when it comes to reporting so rest assured, we will communicate and reach agreement on final grades.