



Comparative Cultures 12 **Course Outline 2023-2024**

Argyle Secondary School
Mr. Ramsay (He/Him)
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Comparative Cultures 12 is an in-depth exploration of various past and present civilizations, with a focus on the interrelationships among art, culture, and civilization. The goal of the course is to help students develop a deeper appreciation for the dizzying variety of cultures in the 21st century, and understand the origins and legacies of those cultures.

The class will delve into these cultures through the social systems, political systems, art, language, and geographies (to name just a few factors) that shaped them. Students will use a variety of disciplinary lenses, including Archaeology, Anthropology, Geography, Sociology, History and more to delve into the kaleidoscopic elements of world cultures. In particular, our study of cultures from around the world will focus on making comparisons and investigating both commonalities and differences in their people's relationship with the environment and in their worldviews. In doing so, we hope to better place each culture's and civilization's characteristics, personalities and roles into the jigsaw of an interconnected world.

Big Ideas

Understanding the diversity and complexity of cultural expressions in one culture enhances our understanding of other cultures.

Interactions between belief systems, social organization, and languages influence artistic expressions of culture.

Geographic and environmental factors influenced the development of agriculture, trade, and increasingly complex cultures.

Value systems and belief systems shape the structures of power and authority within a culture.

curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/social-studies/12/comparative-cultures

Course Content:

Topics:

1. Defining Culture
2. Origins of Humanity
3. Early Civilizations and Cultures – Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece
4. East Asian Cultures
5. New World Cultures

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in a variety of different ways throughout this course. Assessments include reading and writing assignments, projects, presentations, discussions, quizzes and tests.

The class will have a large final project, consisting of a research essay exploring a course-related thesis decided upon by each student.

Students will receive letter grades based on the grading scale shown on page 12 of the Argyle Agenda Book.

Expectations:

- Respect for others and for yourself are the key to a successful classroom. Students are expected to follow the Argyle Code of Conduct.
- Regular attendance and punctuality are essential. Students who miss class are expected to make an effort to make up missed work and catch up with the class.
- Participation in class discussions, small group work, and other classroom activities is necessary to be fully successful in this course.
- Advocate for yourself! Ask questions, make comments and take control of your learning!
- Students must come to class with all materials they may need (well-organized binder, paper, pens, pencil, highlighter, whiteout, etc.)
- All work submitted must be your own. Plagiarism is unacceptable.
- Phones should be kept in your bag or your locker. They are a useful tool in many ways, but are also very distracting. They may be used in class only with teacher permission.

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 and compare the significance of cultural expressions at particular times and places (significance)
- Evaluate inferences about the content, origins, purposes, context, reliability, and usefulness of multiple sources from the past and present (evidence)
- Analyze continuities and changes in diverse cultures at different times and places (continuity and change)
- Assess the development and impact of the thought, artistic expressions, power and authority, and technological adaptations of diverse cultures (cause and consequence)
- Explain different perspectives on past and present cultures (perspective)
- Make reasoned ethical judgments about actions in the past and present, and assess appropriate ways to remember and respond (ethical judgment)

Flex Times:

Extra help is available 8:30 – 9:11 Mon. - Fri.

Contact:

Microsoft Teams will be used to communicate for this class. Students are expected to regularly check for messages, know how to submit work on Teams, and be able to access files from home.