



Argyle Secondary Socials Studies Department

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Subject: Social Studies
Room: 147

Grade: 11

Teacher: Mr. Michael Western

Teacher Contact: mwestern@sd44.ca

Welcome to Social Studies! The objective of this course is to investigate, inquire, discuss, and interpret the following big ideas from the [New BC Curriculum](#):

Physical features and natural resources influence demographic patterns and population distribution
Understanding how political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen
Religion can powerfully shape social, political, legal, and environmental value

We are operating in a semester system, so we will only be together until the end of June. The course is fast paced. Students are introduced to a wide range of ideas and concepts. We will discuss challenging topics such as politics, religions, and human geography. We will examine the significant social, economic, religious and political changes that occurred over that have taken place in recent over the past 50+ years. You will develop critical thinking skills, problem solving skills as well as improve your reading and writing skills.

Course Topics:

1. **Human Geography:** In this unit we will learn about concepts such as population trends and issues, living standards, and the environment.
2. **Political Studies:** In this unit we will examine current events, assessing the validity of the news, our political system, and the basics of political ideologies.
3. **Religion:** In this unit we will examine the ways in which religion influences social, political, legal values of societies.

Evaluation: Students are evaluated on an ongoing basis. Student's marks are based on a combination of quizzes, projects, and classroom activities. All submitted work that is graded is combined and will be counted towards final marks. Each student has the ability to be successful in this course; in most cases, success is simply a choice and involves a sincere effort. For each major assessment, rubrics will be provided to help you understand how marks will be awarded. Students will have plenty of time to do homework in class. If the time is used efficiently, then there will seldom to be a need to do work outside of class.

MS Teams This class will use Microsoft Teams as a digital platform for communicating key information, assignments, and resources to students. It is important that students regular check MS teams to make sure they are up to date. MS teams is used to support in-person learning, not to replace it, and attendance in class remains crucial to success.

Tutorial Times: I will be offering Social Studies tutorials every **Monday-Thursday from 8:30-9:10AM**. I **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that students get in the habit of attending these tutorials, as they can be used to receive extra help, work on projects with classmates, or complete homework.

Policies and Procedures: Cell phones should not be used during the lesson portion of classes. They may be used during in-class independent work, with permission. Students are expected to behave maturely, respecting themselves, others, and the learning environment, while abiding by Argyle's Code of Conduct at all times. Please do not damage the property of others or use it without prior permission. Much of what we learn comes from our experiences in the classroom, so it is important that students attend. **If a class is missed, it is up to the student to make up work and catch up with the rest of the class.** Classmates should be your first point of contact for catching up, followed by me if more help is required. The teacher's permission is needed to leave the classroom one at a time. It is important that the teacher knows exactly where everyone is in case of an emergency. Return to class promptly. **Cheating and plagiarism** (using words of others without proper citation) are serious offenses. At a minimum, you will have to redo the work in either case.

Mr. Western's Expectations:

- RESPECT. RESPECT. RESPECT.
- Always come prepared with all your materials! (Binder, pens, pencils. Etc.)
- Work to EXCEED the posted criteria
- Complete assignments and homework **ON TIME**
- Prepare/Review for quizzes and exams
- Keep your notes tidy
- **Advocate for yourself! Ask questions and take ownership of your learning.**
- Absent students are expected to catch up on any work that they have missed upon return. You need to schedule a time with me to go over any missed assignments and write any missed quizzes/tests.

Assignment Criteria:

Criteria is developed with students and explained prior to work beginning on any major assignment. This will allow for greater understanding, clarity and ownership of assignments resulting in higher achievement and embedded knowledge. Specific requirements for each project will be given upon its assignment. However, the general expectation for all work is as follows:

- **First and last name** written in the top right corner of your page
- **Course and block** written below your name
- **Date** written below your course and block
- **Title** centered and underlined
- **Double space** everything
- Write neatly or type using **12 font**
- **Proofread** assignments and hand them in **ON TIME**

A NOTE TO PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school by email (mwestern@sd44.ca) if you have any questions/concerns regarding the progress of your child. I will work to ensure that I get back to you within one working day. I look forward to working with you this school year!