

Course Descriptions

Burnaby Central

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 8

Social Studies 8 is an overview of the period from 600-1750CE, where students research and analyze how societies form, interact, and change over time. Students explore how factors such as contact and conflict, human and physical geography, and major shifts in culture influence social and political structures. Students examine how the practices of exploration, expansion and colonization have varying consequences for different groups. Social Studies 8 is grounded in the historical thinking skills that are used to examine history at the high school level and beyond. On completion of Social Studies 8, students are well on their way to becoming historians, ready to engage with, and create history.

Social Studies 9

Social Studies 9 is an overview of the period between 1750-1919. In this course, students will develop their critical thinking skills and analyze how people and nations around the world have been influenced by ideas, the environment, power, and identity. Students will explore how emerging ideas and ideologies profoundly influence societies and events, how physical environments influences the nature of political, social, and economic change, how disparities and power alter the balance of relationships between individuals and between society, and how collective identity is constructed and can change over time. As in Socials 8, an emphasis will be placed on the study of First Nations Peoples.

Social Studies 10

The overarching goal of Social Studies 10 is to develop thoughtful, responsible, and active citizens, who are able to gather, interpret, and analyze information from a variety of sources and to understand multiple perspectives, differing worldviews, and what is important to know about the past. Students will cultivate their ability to make reasoned ethical judgements about actions in the past and present, and to determine appropriate ways to remember and respond.

Social Studies 10 can be broadly described as the history of Canada and the world, from 1914 to the present. Students will be provided the opportunity to examine historical and contemporary social, cultural, political, legal, economic, and environmental issues. There will be a focus on the development, structure, and function of Canadian and other political institutions, including First Peoples governance. Central themes include discriminatory policies and injustices in Canada and the world, as well as international conflicts such as WWI, WWII, and the Cold War. The course also examines Canadian autonomy and changing perceptions of identity in Canada.

Senior Electives

Social Studies 11 Explorations

This is a survey course intended to introduce three areas of study – introducing students to political studies and current global trends, historical inquiry and ethical assessment, and geographical awareness in an ever-changing global climate. The course will emphasize inquiry-based learning and research. For further info please visit the ministry website below. This course counts towards graduation credits.

20th Century World History 12

This course may be taught through the lens of espionage; it can be argued that spies are the writers of history. The cataclysmic events of the 20th century were driven by ideology. World War One, for example, was the triumph of liberalism and nationalism over conservatism, monarchism, and imperialism in Europe. In 1917 a Marxist revolution toppled three hundred years of Romanov rule in Russia. Unregulated capitalism in the 1920s followed by a shattering global economic collapse in the 1930s, led to the rise of fascism in Italy, Spain, Germany, and was a significant factor in the rise of militarism in Imperial Japan. Liberalism defeated fascism in World War Two, but only after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. War weary European nations could not stem the tide of nationalism in Asia and Africa during the post war period. Ideology defined the Cold War (1946 - 1991) as competing superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, struggled for supremacy through militarism, propaganda, and proxy wars in Asia. The century closes with the rise of global Islamic terrorism.

Global and Intercultural Studies 12

While multiculturalism refers to different cultures co-existing with each other, interculturalism is about how to understand and interact with people who have different backgrounds and worldviews. With more jobs than ever operating on a global level and immigration representing more than 70% of Canada's population growth, it has never been more important for inclusivity and understanding other cultures. The goal of this class is to help students become more able to live in and understand a globalized world, to resist stereotypical thinking, and to recognize and challenge imbalances of power and inequity. Students will reflect on the sources of their own values, examine globalization and our changing economy, practice cross-cultural communication, and conduct in-depth cultural research.

Human Geography 12

This course examines the ways humans depend on, modify, or adapt to their environments. This is examined through topics such as immigration, industrialization, globalization, agricultural practices, and environmental issues. Students will also examine changing demographics of regions and develop an understanding of how interculturalism allows for cross-cultural communication. While geographic concepts such as oceanography and geology are present, the primary focus is on the issues faced and created by humans. This course can be used for university entrance.

Law Studies 12

Human rights and freedoms intersecting with the criminal justice system lays the foundation of this course. Focusing on some of the most controversial cases over the last few decades, students will learn how to analyze the elements of the case for the prosecution as well as for the defense. The Youth Criminal Justice Act and the Canadian Criminal Code will be examined in depth against the backdrop of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The highlight is a field trip to watch criminal and civil trials at the BC Supreme Court. This course can be used for university entrance.

Philosophy 12

Philosophy examines the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence. Philosophy seeks to answer difficult questions and focuses on the following: Logic: how to construct a rational and compelling argument and use logic to find answers to difficult questions. Metaphysics (the nature of reality): How do we understand our reality? Is there a god? Do we have free will? Epistemology (the nature of knowledge): What is knowledge? How is belief different than knowledge? Ethics: How should people act- is there a true right and wrong way to behave? Are morals natural, or socially constructed? If you like discussion, creating arguments, and pondering life's biggest questions, philosophy is for you. This course can be used for university entrance.

Psychology 12

This course introduces human behaviour and basic psychological concepts and enables students to put them into practice. The areas studied include the biological basis of behaviour, as well as human development and social psychology (personality, abnormal behaviour, treatments, etc.) This is a course on human behaviour and basic concepts in modern psychology. The course covers the five major psychological domains: methods, biopsychological, cognitive, developmental, and socio-economic domain. The course is designed for students who have an interest in psychology and are curious to learn how and why people think and act the way they do. This course also acts as an excellent foundation course for AP Psych. This course cannot be used for university entrance but is a graduation credit course.

Social Justice 12

In Social Justice 12 you will be examining how basic human rights and social values are upheld and distributed in Canada and around the world. In this course you will have the opportunity to challenge the status quo and examine how issues such as racism, poverty, sexism, homophobia, and globalization manifest within societal structures. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the ability to apply critical thinking and ethical reasoning skills to a variety of social justice issues is crucial and is the cornerstone of this course. Students will examine their own privileges, values, and beliefs, as well as investigate methods to effect positive change in the world. Thoughtful, open and informed class discussion and engagement are highly valued and important to the success of each student's learning experience. This course can be used for university entrance.

AP Psychology

This course will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behaviour and mental processes of humans. Students will be exposed to psychological facts, principals, and phenomenon associated with each of the sub fields in psychology. Topics addressed: Social Psych, The Brain, Personality, Learning, Intelligence etc. Students should be fully aware of the heavy content of this course and the academic challenge of a six-credit university level course. The content of this course supports a broad range of study/career paths including business, law, education, and health studies. The final exam in May is optional but strongly recommended. Students are awarded 6 university credits upon successful completion of the AP exam. This course counts as both a graduation credit as well as can be used for university entrance.