

IB MYP HUMANITIES YEAR 3 / SOCIAL STUDIES 8

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DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Social studies, as defined in the BC curriculum, is a multidisciplinary subject that draws from the social sciences and humanities to study human interaction and natural and social environments.

The overarching goal of social studies is to develop thoughtful, responsible, active citizens who are able to acquire the requisite information to consider multiple perspectives and to make reasoned judgments. The curriculum provides students with opportunities as future citizens to critically reflect upon events and issues in order to examine the present, make connections with the past and consider the future.

Through their participation in social studies, students are encouraged to:

- understand and prepare to exercise their roles, rights, and responsibilities within the family, the community, Canada, and the world
- develop an appreciation of democracy and what it means to be a Canadian
- demonstrate respect for human equality and cultural diversity
- think critically, evaluate information, and practice effective communication

The aims of the teaching and learning of MYP humanities are to encourage and enable the student to:

- appreciate the range of human and environmental commonalities and diversities
- understand the interactions and interdependence of individuals, societies and environments in different contexts
- understand how both environmental and human systems operate and evolve over time
- identify and develop a concern for human and environmental well-being
- act upon opportunities to be a responsible global citizen
- develop effective inquiry skills to achieve conceptual understanding in humanities.

FUNDAMENTAL IB CONCEPTS

This course addresses the fundamental IB concepts in the following ways.

International Mindedness: We will be learning from perspectives and contexts from diverse opinions and ways of being.

Intercultural Awareness: In all lessons, research, and discussion we aim to consider alternative perspectives and build understanding of our own cultures and those of others.

Communication: We work to articulate ourselves through writing, reading, oral language, and electronic presentation.

Holistic Learning: In all lessons, research, and discussion we consider issues dealing with emotional and social wellness.

METHODOLOGY and ASSESSMENT

This course will incorporate multiple ways of learning including discussion, lecture, project-based work, cooperative learning, reflection, group inquiry and individual inquiry. Throughout the year, students will complete a variety of assessments, including *at least* one piece of extended writing (essay), a test, and another assignment such as a webpage, annotated bibliography, a case study, a presentation, etc. Please go to the school website to view the criteria which will be used to assess students' achievement in this course.

The assessment process reveals what a student understands, knows and can do. The evaluation process indicates the quality of performance based on learner outcomes (curriculum). Assessment

and evaluation provide ongoing feedback to teachers, students and parents in order to enhance student learning. Assessment and evaluation are employed when teachers gather information (*diagnostic*), monitor student progress (*formative*), and evaluate achievement of learning outcomes for the purpose of report card marks (*summative*).

Assessment in the MYP aims to:

- support and encourage student learning by providing feedback on the learning process
- promote positive student attitudes towards learning
- promote a deep understanding of subject content by supporting students in their inquiries set in real world contexts using the areas of interaction
- promote the development of higher-order cognitive skills by providing rigorous final objectives valuing these skills
- reflect the international-mindedness of the programme by allowing for assessments to be set in a variety of cultural and linguistic contexts
- support the holistic nature of the programme by including in its model principles that take account of the development of the whole student

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS / RESOURCES

- Students will not need a textbook for this course, though we will keep a set in the class as a secondary resource
- Throughout the year, films and documentaries will be used to compliment regular instruction and learning
- Online resources will be used for several assignments and lessons

INCOMPLETE OR LATE SUBMISSIONS

Incomplete or late submissions of assignments or projects is not acceptable. If the student is absent they must have an excused absence substantiated by either myself or the office. All assignments will then be handed in on the first class back, unless an agreement has been made between myself and the student due to unforeseen circumstances. Assignments not handed in will receive a NHI (0) until they are submitted.

ABSENCES AND LATES

Unexcused absences are not acceptable and any information missed must be made up on the student's time. If there is an unexcused absence on the day of a test or quiz, the absence will be seen as skipping, and the student will receive a mark of 0. In case of illness or unforeseen excused absence(s) students are expected to notify the office and myself as soon as possible via email or voicemail. Students are also expected to make up any work they have missed.

FOOD, DRINKS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please note that food and drinks (other than water) are not allowed in classrooms at Rockridge Secondary. All cell phones should be turned off during class time. I-PODs and other MP3 devices should not be used during class time, unless specifically allowed by myself during personal work. Laptops are allowed for class use, however, improper use of laptops during class time will result in the removal of laptop privileges.

*** keep in mind that you are required to bring your device to school every day. This does not mean that you will be using it at all times, and it certainly doesn't mean that you can waste time on it. These devices are intended as tools to improve your learning experience, not as a distraction.**

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR

Students are always expected to act in a courteous and respectful manner to other students and myself. This means that no one should be interrupted or insulted in any way. Students should refrain from speaking while others are speaking and should raise their hand to participate. **Participation is encouraged at all times and is essential for success.**