

Social Studies 30

The Social Studies 30 course is divided into two major topics.

Topic A: Political and Economic Systems

This topic is designed to encourage students to investigate the values, principles and practices of the world's major political and economic systems. The analysis of political systems includes consideration of ideology, power, decision-making, leadership. Content for this topic includes the study of democratic capitalism, democratic socialism, communism and fascism. Through critical analysis of various systems students will be encouraged to begin to develop their own political and economic philosophies. Students are cautioned to **KEEP AN OPEN MIND!** This process should be seen as a starting point for a life long experience of critical analysis.

Topic B: Global Interaction

The intent of this topic is to provide students with an understanding of the major historical events of the twentieth century with a specific focus on international relations. This topic is not meant to be a passive assimilation of historical facts. Students will be challenged to analyse past events, to evaluate the actions of various people and governments, to suggest how things might have been done differently, and to identify to what extent current events are shaped by the past.

Content includes case studies of conflict (WW II, Cold War and regional confrontations) and cooperation (the United Nations, World Trade Organization, European Parliament, etc.)

Skill Objectives

To locate, interpret and evaluate information from a variety of print and non-print sources.

To analyze multiple historical and contemporary perspectives within and across cultures

Assess the validity of information based on bias, quality evidence, and the logic of assumptions

To develop a thesis and support it in a well written essay.

To communicate information in oral/visual presentations.

It is necessary for students to keep informed of current events. In particular the following areas are crucial to this course:

- news about political activities in various countries i.e. elections, coups, independence movements, labour movements, political protest
- International conflicts
- Role of International organizations like the United Nations, The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organizations, G – 8, G20
- Editorials about government policies

EVALUATION: Social Studies 30 final mark is composed of an average between the teacher awarded mark and the provincial examination in June. The teacher awarded mark will consist of the following components:

1. Current events: students will be expected to monitor current events, and present a written or oral analysis of different perspectives related to National or International stories related to course content.
2. Written work – students will be evaluated on written presentation of a persuasive argument in response to questions about international relations and political and economic systems.
3. Students will be assessed on their ability to determine the point of view and bias in newspaper editorials, political cartoons and electronically accessed information.
4. Low Stakes quizzes and exams - Students will write low stakes exams and quizzes that will be weighted relatively low. These exams will provide the student and the teacher with feedback about student progress.
5. High Stakes Exams: At the end of each major unit students will write a high stakes exam which will be more heavily weighted.

Attendance and Personal Responsibility: Any student away from class for a legitimate reason should have a parent or guardian contact the school to inform them of the absence.

Each student is responsible for any material covered while away and must have two fellow students they can contact when they are away to assist them in getting caught up and to give them any materials they missed. If a student is away for part of the day for an appointment of some kind and misses the class **they must meet with the teacher to hand in any assignments and find out about work missed.**

Reasonable allowances will be made for students suffering from serious illness or confronted with unexpected family circumstances.

Any personal problems of a confidential nature can be dealt with through counselling services in the school or through an administrator or other teacher that you feel comfortable talking to. What is important for the class room teacher to know is that you are experiencing a personal problem and require special consideration or assistance.

If a student is away without a legitimate reason (commonly known as skipping) for high stakes evaluation they may **be awarded an incomplete mark for the course** and will have to complete that portion of the evaluation the following semester.