



Social Studies 8 Course Outline 2021-2022

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Text: "Worldviews: Contact and Change" Fitton, Goodman, and O'Connor. Pearson Canada, 2007.

Welcome to Social Studies! I am very excited for our year together and getting to know you. I know we will have a fantastic time and that with hard work and regular attendance, you will be successful!

What is Social Studies?

Social Studies is the study of people in relation to each other and to their world. It is an issues-focused and inquiry-based interdisciplinary subject that draws upon history, geography, ecology, economics, law, philosophy, political science and other social science disciplines.

Social Studies 8

Grade 8 students will examine issues related to contact between societies with differing worldviews. They will explore elements of worldviews and how these are expressed by people living in different times and in different places. Through this inquiry, students will reflect on their own worldviews and assess the influence that the past has had on the present.

Social studies 8 is broken down into three major historical worldviews:
Renaissance Europe, the Aztecs and the Spanish, and Japan in isolation.



Unit 1: Origins of a Western Worldview: Renaissance Europe

Chapters 1-6

September-December

Through an examination of Renaissance Europe, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how the exchange of ideas and knowledge contributed to shaping the worldview of the Western world.

Unit 2: Worldviews in Conflict: The Spanish and the Aztecs

Chapters 7-11

January-March

Through an examination of Aztec and Spanish societies, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how intercultural contact affects the worldviews of societies.

Unit 3: From Isolation to Adaptation: Japan

Chapters 12-16

April-June

Through an examination of Japan, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the ways in which beliefs, values, and knowledge shape worldviews and contribute to a society's isolation or adaptation.

Local and Current Affairs

Current affairs play a central role in learning and will be integrated throughout the course. Ongoing reference to current affairs adds relevance, interest, and immediacy to social studies issues. Through classroom discussions and activities, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how the media informs and shapes our knowledge of point of view, perspective and worldviews. Opportunities may include current events in local communities, issues with local, provincial, national and/or global relevance, cultural celebrations, visits from dignitaries and elders, and special events.

Supplies

Students will need the following for every class: binder, pens/pencils, loose-leaf paper, their one-to-one device and pencil crayons.

Evaluation

Assignments/ Projects/ Quizzes	50%
Current Events	10%
Unit Exams	20%
Final Exam	20%

Evaluation of student learning is reported in four terms. Term marks will be based on “Assignments/ Projects/ Quizzes,” “Current Events” and “Unit Exams.” The final course mark will be a blend of four term marks (80%) plus the final exam mark (20%).

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Arrive to class on time with all required materials
- Show respect to all classmates, educational assistants, the teacher and to themselves
- Submit all assignments on time
- Make up for work missed. Students who are absent are responsible for finding out what they missed and completing it. This can be done by asking classmates or emailing the teacher.
- Respect the rights of others and contribute to a safe learning environment for all
- Come to class with a positive attitude and a willingness to participate

Cell Phones

We will regularly use technology in the classroom to enhance and facilitate learning, but having and using cell phones is a privilege. Cell phones are not to be used in class without the permission of the teacher. If a phone is used without permission, it will be confiscated by the teacher and returned at the end of the

day. A second offence will result in the phone being confiscated and only returned to the parent or guardian.

My classroom expectations and rules align with the Fairview High School student handbook. For any questions, comments or concerns you may have, please refer to the hand book or feel free to contact me directly.