

Social Studies Course Descriptions

Contents

Grade 8	1
Grade 9	1
Grade 10	2
Grade 11 & 12	2

Grade 8

Social Studies 8

Within the time period 750-1750 CE, students will explore these big ideas including: cause & conflict can stimulate long term change; human and environmental factors shape changes in population & living standards; expansion & exploration had varying consequences for different groups; and changing ideas about the world created tension between people wanting to adopt new ideas & those wanting to preserve established traditions

Social Studies 8 Honours (Students must write an entrance assessment)

The Social Studies Department offers Honours courses from Grade 8-10. Students with a strong academic standing can enter the Honours Program at any time. All Honours Courses provide enrichment of the basic curriculum through thoughtful, and intellectually engaging instructional activities.

Grade 9

Social Studies 9

Within the time period 1750-1919, students will explore the following big ideas: emerging ideas & ideologies profoundly influence societies & events; collective identity is constructed & can change over time; the physical environment influences the nature of political, social & economic change; disparities in power alter the balance of relationships between individuals & society.

Social Studies 9 Honours (Students must complete an Honours Application Form)

The Social Studies Department offers Honours courses from Grade 8-10. Students with a strong academic standing can enter the Honours Program at any time. All Honours Courses provide enrichment of the basic curriculum through thoughtful, and intellectually engaging instructional activities.

Grade 10

Social Studies 10

Within the time period 1918-Present Day, student will explore the following big ideas including how: Global and regional conflicts have been a powerful force in shaping our contemporary world; the development of political institutions is influenced by economic, social, ideological, & geographic factors; worldviews lead to different perspectives and ideas about developments in Canadian society; and that historical and contemporary injustices challenge the narrative and identity of Canada as an inclusive, multicultural society.

Social Studies 10 Honours (Students must complete an Honours Application Form)

The Social Studies Department offers Honours courses from Grade 8-10. Students with a strong academic standing can enter the Honours Program at any time. All Honours Courses provide enrichment of the basic curriculum through thoughtful, and intellectually engaging instructional activities.

Grade 11 & 12

Explorations in Social Studies 11

In this course, you may explore and inquire into a range of Social Studies topics that include BC First Nations Studies, History, Geography, Psychology, Politics & Government, Social Justice, Law, and Philosophy. This might lay the foundation for a more focused pursuit of senior Social Studies subjects.

Psychology 11

This is an activities-based, introductory course that introduces the study of human behavior & basic concepts in modern psychology. You'll explore topics such as human development and psychological disorders and find answers to questions like "how can I improve my memory?". This course promotes critical thinking in a range of group/individual activities.

20th Century World History 12

How do ordinary people do extraordinary things that lead to profound change? This course examines the most remarkable century in human history—from the end of WWI, to the Civil Rights movement, to the digital revolution. You will learn valuable skills through a range of activities like historical simulations, debates, Socratic seminars, and some of the best movies ever. Suitable for all students interested in learning how we got here and why.

Asian Studies 12

Asian Studies 12 examines the geography, history, and culture of selected countries in Asia from 1850 to the present. Some topics of study will include the diversity of Asia's physical landscape and cultural diversity and how the countries have developed over time. This course fulfills the Social Studies graduation requirement. Take this exciting new course and explore Asian history!

BC First Peoples 12

This course focuses on the diversity, depth and integrity of the cultures of the Indigenous communities in BC. BC First Peoples 12 documents the history & cultures of First Nations and Métis people in BC from before the arrival of Europeans to the present.

Criminology 12

Criminology 12 is a Social Studies elective unique to Burnaby South (no other Burnaby school has it), open to grades 10, 11, 12. Criminology studies crime from different perspectives. Criminology 12 questions why crime exists and how crime affects society and individuals through different concepts and theories. This is a great introduction course if you are interested in the study of crime. Many students go on to pursue criminology in post-secondary.

Human Geography 12

In this course you will learn to analyze data, demographic patterns & human patterns of interaction with our planet. You will focus on the human & environmental interaction across the globe and how regions around the world are a combination of the dynamic interaction between humans and their environment.

Law Studies 12

This is an introductory course on the Canadian legal system. Some of the topics we explore are the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, criminal law, investigation including forensics and police powers, trial procedure and civil law. The course includes guest speakers and a visit to the law courts. This is an academic elective course (accepted at universities as a senior Social Studies credit).

Physical Geography 12

This Social Science course will introduce you to the awe-inspiring physical diversity of our planet. By investigating the earth, you'll learn the knowledge & skills needed for a dynamic world. The Big Ideas will look at population patterns and how they are influenced by the environment and human activity and how that, in turn, shapes the landscape in a variety of ways.

Psychology 12

Students will learn about human behavior and examine the three main debates and research questions Psychologists continue to study. Students will develop critical thinking skills, as well as applying those skills to real life case studies and engaging activities and experiments.

Social Justice 12

Students will develop ethical & philosophical reasoning skills by exploring issues of injustice in a local and global context. Students will work to invoke change to become ethical and socially responsible global citizens. Topics include animal rights, media, consumerism, propaganda, child labour, homophobia, women's rights, racism, global issues, environmentalism and social justice "heroes".

AP Seminar – Contemporary Indigenous Studies

Next year, we are offering A.P. Capstone Seminar with a focus on Indigenous content which will grant **credit for both the Capstone Seminar course AND the graduation requirement of and Indigenous studies course.** In A.P. Capstone Seminar- the first year of the 2-year Capstone program- we hone critical thinking, research, writing, and presentation skills

Students get **both a course credit and a College Board credit** if they complete Performance Tasks 1 and 2 and write the End of Course Exam in May. These credits may be applied to various courses in universities, depending on the institution and the field the student pursues. The University of Alberta, for one, recognizes the A.P. Capstone credit and offers a scholarship for Capstone students.

AP Human Geography

The purpose of this course is to introduce the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped understanding, use and alteration of Earth's surface. You'll use concepts & analysis to examine social organization and its consequences. You will also learn about the methods & tools geographers use in their professional practice. Our study of geography will apply a holistic perspective in examining patterns, places and landscapes, while we find our place in the world around us.

AP Psychology

This course will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students will be exposed to psychological facts, principals, and phenomenon associated with each of the sub fields in psychology. Students should be fully aware of the heavy content of this course and the academic challenge. This course offers students the choice in writing the optional AP Exam in May.

AP World History

AP World History: Modern is a fascinating course that examines global civilizations from 1200 CE to today, exploring how cultures interact, change, and shape the modern world. Students investigate revolutions, belief systems, trade, and conflict while developing strong skills in critical thinking and historical argumentation. The course prepares students for university-level study and may count toward first-year credit. Students will also get credit for History 12.

In AP World History: Modern, you'll learn about the rise and fall of empires, the evolution of technology, and the cultural and social changes that have shaped our world. The course isn't just about memorizing dates and battles—it's about exploring civilizations and cultures from a global perspective to better understand the complex relationships that exist today.