

# Social Studies

0042

Turtle River School Division- McCreary School

Teacher: Ms. N. Plett

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Grade 7/8

## Course Mission:

The goal of this social studies course is to help students understand how they are shaped by society, and how they contribute to shaping society.

## Course Description:

The grade 8 social studies curriculum is titled *World History: Societies of the Past* and is intended to help students gain an understanding of what *society* means and how the societies of the past have shaped the Canadian society we live in now. Students will journey from stories of human origin to the industrial revolution over the course of 5 units: Understanding Societies, Early Societies, Ancient Greece and Rome, Middle Ages, and Shaping the Modern World. Twice a month students will have a bonus social studies class; one will be spent reflecting on current events, and the other will focus on religious celebrations of the 5 major world religions that have roots in the early societies we will be studying.

## Schedule and Topics Covered:

Understanding Societies (September- Mid October)

- What is a world view?
- Origins of human societies
- Defining societies and civilizations
- Knowing the past

Early Societies (Mid October- December)

- Overview of early civilizations
- Interactions with the natural environment
- Living in an early society
- Communication and art in an early society

Ancient Greece and Rome (January- February)

- Defining antiquity
- Culture of ancient Greece
- Democracy in ancient Greece
- Roman Empire
- Legacy of ancient Greece and Rome

The Middle Ages (March-April)

- Overview of the Middle Ages
- Life in medieval Europe
- The rise of Islam and the Ottoman Empire
- China and the Mongol Empire
- Legacy of the Middle Ages

Shaping the Modern World (May- June)

- World overview to 1850
- Global exploration
- Renaissance and Reformation
- Industrial Revolution

**Materials Required:**

Students are asked to bring a binder, loose leaf and a pencil or pen each class. Pencil crayons or markers may be required during the year but are not needed on a daily basis. All other materials will be provided.

**Course Evaluation:**

The social studies report card shows a grade in three categories: knowledge and understanding, research and communication, and critical thinking and citizenship. These three categories will be weighted as marked below, and added together to determine final grades.

**Knowledge and Understanding (40%):** This grade will come from how well a student demonstrates that they understand the material that was taught in class. This will be evaluated using in-class assignments, review assignments, and the occasional unit test.

**Research and Communication (30%):** This grade will be determined by any research projects and presentations a student does. Students will be expected to demonstrate strong research skills (using and citing multiple reliable sources) and summarize information well through written and/ or oral presentation.

**Critical Thinking and Citizenship (30%):** This grade will come from how well a student reflects on material presented in class both orally and through written responses. Current events assignments, celebration days, in-class assignments, and participation in class discussions will all be used to determine this grade.

All assignments will have detailed instructions given verbally and in written form. Students are expected to listen/ read attentively and ask clarifying question as necessary if they are unclear on what is expected. Major projects and assignments will be accompanied by a rubric that should be used by the students to ensure they are handing in work that suits the grading criteria. Rubrics may also be used for self-evaluation on occasion. All tests will be preceded by a study guide that will cover all content that will be covered on the test. Marks will be given as a percentage on all tests and assignments.

**Due dates matter.** Assignments, projects, and tests are all to be handed in/ written on the pre-determined date. Failure to do so makes it more difficult to understand new concepts which leads to gaps in understanding. If you have a legitimate reason that a due date may not work for you, speak with your teacher immediately to determine an alternative plan for completing the assignment. Requests for extensions the day/ night before may not be granted. **Late assignments will be docked 10%.** If it is not submitted after two weeks it will receive a grade of 0%.

If you are absent it is **YOUR** responsibility to make up for any missed lessons, notes, or assignments. Notes taken in class are your ticket to doing well on tests and assignments. If you do not follow up with the teacher to determine what you missed then you will risk not having essential notes, or receiving a 0% on a missed assignment.

As your teacher I do not want you to fail! I want you to do well, and I will give you the tools you need to do that. If you ever have questions or need help send me a message on Teams or come talk to me! In order to do well you need to also take responsibility for your own learning, your effort will determine your grade.

## **Behavioural Expectations & Evaluation:**

The report card you receive will show a behaviour grade in three categories: personal management, active participation in learning, and social responsibility.

**Personal Management:** This grade is determined based on your use of class time, ability to work independently, completing homework and assignments on time, organization, and appropriate use of technology. You are expected to complete notes and store them in your binder in an organized manner. Technology (personal and school devices) is only to be used with explicit permission from the teacher and for learning purposes only during class time.

**Active Participation in Learning:** Given the discussion based nature of this course, attendance and participation is very important. Students should be physically and mentally present in class and engage with all learning activities (discussions, notes, and assignments). If a student misses a class for any reason the effort shown to make up for missed work will be considered in this grading area.

**Social Responsibility:** This grade will be determined by kindness, respect, and positivity shown in the classroom. Grading in this area is determined by how well you work well with others, resolve conflict appropriately, respect property, follow Covid-19 protocols, avoid side conversations, and contribute to the learning environment in a positive way.

If a student is consistently not meeting the expectations outlined above, they will first be addressed directly by the teacher. If the student continues with problematic behavior the principal may become involved as well as the student's parents. Respect for self, others, and equipment will be expected at all times.

**\*\* This course outline and the evaluation breakdown are subject to change, depending on student needs\*\***