

Social Studies 8 Course Outline

Historical Worldviews Examined

2023-2024 MHHS

Semester 1: Miss A. Duncan - duncana@lrsd.ab.ca

Semester 2: Mr. I. Robertson - robertoni@lrsd.ab.ca

Social Studies provides opportunities for students to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge that will enable them to become engaged, active, informed and responsible citizens. Grade 8 students will examine issues related to contact between societies with differing worldviews. They will explore elements of worldviews and how these views 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. Examples will be drawn from Japanese, Renaissance Europe and Aztec societies.

Topics:

1. Worldviews in Conflict: The Spanish and the Aztecs - (Sept. - Oct.)
Through an examination of Spanish and Aztec societies, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how intercultural contact affects the worldviews of societies.
2. From Isolation to Adaptation: Japan - (Nov. - Jan.)
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.
3. Origins of a Western Worldview: Renaissance Europe - (Feb. - Apr.)
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.
4. Worldview - (May - June)
Students will develop an understanding of worldview in relation to the three case studies studied throughout the year: the Aztecs, Japan, and the Renaissance. Students will then explore and reflect on the development of their own worldview.

5. Current Affairs - (On going)

Topics of current interest will be discussed by students throughout the year.

Resources:

Texts- Worldview: Contact and Change
Various other materials.

Assessment:

Topic One	25%
Topic Two	25%
Topic Three	25%
Topic Four	20%
Current Affairs	5%

Classroom Expectations:

You will only get out of your education what you put into it! Be an active learner - think critically and ask questions. This year of Social Studies will have ample opportunity for discussion in class. However, in order to create an environment where all feel welcome to participate, regardless of their perspective, **the number one rule is to respect yourself and others.**

Otherwise, at Jr. High students should be aware of what is **acceptable behavior** from **unacceptable behavior**. As such, we will not have an exhaustive set of rules and guidelines of dos and don'ts. Just a few that merit mention:

- 1) Come Prepared to Learn and respect school property such as laptops, books, desks etc.
- 2) Respect school and division computer and technology expectations of digital citizenship.
- 3) Electronic devices (including cell phones) are to be used only with teacher permission.
- 4) Please limit food to snacks and drinks that will make minimal mess/distraction.
- 5) Come to class on time. If you are late, enter the room with little disturbance to others and get started promptly.
- 6) Hand in assignments on time. Extensions will be granted for reasonable circumstances, but the student must make their own arrangements.

My hope is that if students are reflecting on their learning, always striving to be aware if their actions are both respectful and safe (to themselves and others), then we can enjoy our shared learning space. Furthermore, I expect that as young adults, students take responsibility for their actions and always strive to improve.

Please note: Miss Duncan will be teaching Social Studies 8 during the first semester, and then Mr. Robertson will be teaching the course in the second semester.

Please do not hesitate to contact us throughout the school year with any questions or concerns. School email and phone are generally best.

Email: duncana@lrsd.ab.ca & robertsoni@lrsd.ab.ca

Phone: 403-627-4414

Please indicate below your preferred method of contact for general updates. For more significant concerns we will email or phone you directly.

Thank you,

Ashtyn Duncan & Ian Robertson

Next portion to be completed by parents/guardians.

For individual contacts, please provide the following:

Student Name: _____ (please print)

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____ (please print)

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**** Please indicate any pertinent information I should know about your student on the back of this page ****