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# The Social Studies Gazette

## REVISED BC CURRICULUM BRINGS NEW CHANGES TO BC SOCIAL STUDIES

After an overhaul to BC's revised curriculum, Social Studies departments now offer a wider range of options to students. The main goals of Social Studies continue to be the development of thoughtful, responsible, active citizens who consider multiple perspectives and make reasoned judgments. The Social Studies curriculum provides students with opportunities as citizens to critically reflect upon events and issues in order to examine the present, make connections to the past, and consider the future. Through their participation in Social Studies, students are encouraged to:

- Understand and prepare to exercise their roles, rights, and responsibilities within the community, Canada, and the world.
- Develop an appreciation of democracy and what it means to be both Canadian and a global citizen.
- Demonstrate respect for human equality and diversity.
- Think critically, evaluate information, and practice effective communication.
- Your at-a-glance, comprehensive guide to Burnaby Mountain's Social Studies Department and course offerings
- Special and Unique Opportunities offered within the Social Studies courses
- AP Courses offered in the Social Studies Department at BMSS
- Teachers in the SS Department



**TIME WARP** LANE



*"We are not makers of history, we are made by history" - Martin Luther King Jr.*

### Special Opportunities

Social Studies courses provide excellent opportunities for field trips and guest speakers to enhance classroom learning. Special opportunities, field trips and guest speakers which have been offered by our Social Studies Department to students include: Geography Challenge, Global Young Leaders Conference, Law Courts, BC Schizophrenia Society, Downtown Eastside, Residential School Survivors, Holocaust Survivors-, Liberty in North Korea, Free the Children's We Day, Amnesty International, Dare to Stand Out, QMunity, Office to Combat Human Trafficking etc.

In the last few years, 2 BMSS Social Studies students have made it to the Geography Challenge Nationals in Ottawa!

### Grade 8—10 Required Social Studies Courses

- Social Studies 8
- Social Studies 9
- Social Studies 10 *OR* Social Studies 10 Language Adapted

### Grade 11 and 12 Elective Courses

Once students enter their grade 11 year, they are required to take one Social Studies elective course. The Social Studies Department offers a variety of elective courses to suit the varied interests and diverse requirements of our students. Students must choose 1 of the following elective courses in their grade 11 year (but may choose to take as many as they wish):

- Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12
- Explorations in Social Studies 11
- Law Studies 12
- Philosophy 12
- Physical Geography 12
- Psychology 11
- Psychology 12
- Social Justice 12
- 20th Century World History 12

**Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12** — A study of local contemporary issues from an Indigenous lens. Topics include identities, worldviews, languages, peoples, and connection to the land. As well as colonialism and its effects, self-determination, and reconciliation.

**Explorations in Social Studies 11** — A new course designed to provide flexibility for students based on student interests and strengths, and examining current issues from a range of our department's course offerings, including a sampler from all of the below courses.

**Law Studies 12** — A survey course of Canadian law and legal issues; emphasis is on statute law, case law, Charter of Rights and freedoms, criminal law, procedural law, human rights, contracts, torts, family law, consumer law, young offenders law, and emerging legal concerns.

**Philosophy 12** — A course examining the major branches and themes of philosophy including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, aesthetics, and logic. Topics range from political philosophy, the philosophy of science, language and education.

**Physical Geography 12** — A study of the forces that shape the earth's surface, the resulting features, and how they affect people. Students will study aspects of astronomy, oceanography, climatology, geology, and environmental issues.

**Psychology 11 & 12** — This course introduces behaviour and basic psychological concepts and enables students to put them into practice. The areas studied include the biolog-

**Social Justice 12** — A unique course that will develop students' ethical and philosophical reasoning skills by exploring issues of in/justice and human rights in a local and global context. A heavy focus on current issues guides topics which include: human rights, equality, equity, animal rights, speciesism, privilege, genocide, poverty, global issues and conflicts, wealth, racism, sexism, women's and men's issues, hetero- sexism, LGBTQ+ issues etc.

**20th Century World History 12** — A study of world history in the 20th century. Topics include: WWI & its conclusion, the rise of dictators, the Depression, WWII, the Cold War, the Middle East and the present day world. The prevailing theme remains the role of individual leaders with an emphasis placed on why events unfolded, and their impact on our world today.

### Advanced Placement (AP)

Students with a strong academic background are able to take AP courses. Students who complete an AP 12 course in either grade 11 or 12 and write an associated AP exam (in May) can qualify for post-secondary credit at universities and colleges. See counselors or Social Studies teachers for more details. There is an extra fee to write each AP exam.

**NOTE:** *AP courses cannot be used to meet the new BC ministry graduation requirements, however, students will receive post-secondary credit upon completion of an AP exam.*

- AP Art History 12
- AP Economics (Macro & Microeconomics)
- AP European History 12
- AP Human Geography 12
- AP Psychology 12

**AP Art History 12** — This course explores such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making and responses to art. Through investigation of diverse artistic traditions of culture from prehistory to the present, the course fosters an in-depth and holistic understanding of art from a global perspective.

**AP Economics (Macroeconomics & Microeconomics)** — These **TWO** courses are taught as part of a year- long course and prepares students for the two AP exams in May. AP Microeconomics is taught from September to January and AP Macroeconomics is covered from January to May. Microeconomics looks at the functions of individual decision makers, buyers, and sellers within the economic system. Macroeconomics looks at how the principles of economics apply to an economic system as a whole.

**AP European History 12** — This course is a study of European History from 1450—present. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of the course are to develop an understanding of some of the principal themes in European History and developing the ability to analyze and understand historical evidence.

**AP Human Geography 12** — This course focuses on how humans impact and interact with the world around them. Students are introduced to systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences.

**AP Psychology 12** — This course will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students will be exposed to psychological principles and phenomena associated with each of the subfields in psychology.