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The Social Studies Gazette

SOCIAL STUDIES OFFERS A VARIETY OF ENGAGING COURSES TO SUIT EVERYONE!

BMSS offers a variety of Social Studies courses.

The main goals of Social Studies are to develop thoughtful, responsible, active citizens who are able to acquire the requisite information needed to consider multiple perspectives and to 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.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Your at-a-glance comprehensive guide to the courses of study and faculty of Burnaby Mountain's Social Studies Department.
- 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



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, GetReal, 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

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 from 1 of the following in their grade 11 year (**but may choose to take as many as they wish**):

Electives:

Explorations in Social Studies 11

20th Century World History 12

Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12

Law Studies 12

Philosophy 12

Physical Geography 12

Psychology 11

Psychology 12

Social Justice 12

Comparative Cultures 12

Asian Studies 12

Human Geography 12

(Interested students may take AP Human Geography within this course—see teachers for details)

Advanced Placement (AP):

Students with 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.

AP Art History 12

AP Economics (Macro
& Microeconomics)

AP Psychology 12

****NOTE:**

AP courses cannot be used to meet the new BC ministry graduation requirements; however, students will receive credit upon completion of an AP course

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.

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. Prevailing themes include the roles of the individual leaders and personalities. Emphasis is placed on why the events took place, and how they have affected our world today.

Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12— A study of local contemporary issues from an Indigenous lens. Topics include identities, worldviews, languages and peoples are renewed through connection to land, as well as a focus on colonialism and its effects, self-determination, and reconciliation.

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, 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 biological basis of behaviour as well as human development and social psychology (personality, abnormal behaviour, treatments etc.)

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, prejudice/discrimination, racism, sexism, gender studies, heterosexism, SOGI/2SLGBTQIA+ issues, human trafficking, lookism, etc.

Asian Studies 12— This course allows students to study the culture, society, politics, and history of Asia past and present through personal studies of given topics.

Human Geography 12— This course focuses on how humans impact and interact with the world around them, and introduces students to the 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. (Interested students CAN take the AP exam—see teacher for details).

Comparative Cultures 12—This course focusses on the study of the inter-relationships among values, culture, civilization, through analyses of various past global civilizations.

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 cultures from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in in-depth and holistic understanding of art from a global perspective.

AP Economics (Microeconomics & Macroeconomics) - 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 Psychology 12— This course will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study and behaviour and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students will be exposed to psychological principles and phenomena associated with each of the sub fields in psychology.