**Social Studies 11 Explorations Syllabus**

***Teacher: Mrs. McKinlay***

***stephanie.mckinlay@burnabyschools.ca***

Welcome to Social Studies 11 Explorations at Burnaby Central!

This course offers students the opportunity to be introduced to Grade 12 elective courses, as well as providing graduation credits for Social Studies. The elective course topics that we will be focusing on this semester are: Genocide Studies, Law, and Human Geography.

Each unit will consist of readings, group discussions, notes, and assignments. By the end of each unit it is hoped that you will have a better understanding of the topic and can then determine if you want to learn deeper about the topic in the future.

*The big ideas for the course are:*

* *A society’s laws and legal framework affects many aspects of people’s daily lives (from Law Studies).*
* *The intentional destruction of peoples and their cultures is not inevitable, and attempts can be disrupted and resisted (from Genocide Studies).*
* *Physical features and natural resources influence demographic patterns and population distribution (from Human Geography).*

**Classroom Guidelines: Courtesy, Respect, Responsibility**

The classroom is intended as a safe and caring environment for all participants, including teachers, students, administrators, and guests. That means you should treat everyone with respect at all times, and encourage an environment that we are all proud to learn in. There are other rules you should be aware of as well:

* All electronic devices such as audio and video players, cellular phones, and computers must be turned off at the beginning of the class. An important part of Social Studies 11 focuses on listening, speaking, critical thinking and cooperative learning – for these to happen effectively students must be participating in class. If you need your computer/listening device for a special activity, to take notes or for other reasons, it is not a problem, arrangements can be made.
* Language in the classroom must be appropriate for the classroom. This includes the usual list of words that I don’t think I need to repeat. This also means that during discussions, language should be kept civil and person attacks will not be tolerated. You are disagreeing with an idea, not a person.
* Academic honesty is a cornerstone of student learning. Plagiarism of published material, either in print or electronic will not be tolerated – information should be sourced and cited in an appropriate manner. Copying, cheating, or any other form of deceit where a student attempts to submit work that is not their own will also not be tolerated. The administration will be notified and a plan of action will be implemented in accordance with board policies.

**Tips and Strategies for Social Studies 11**

* Attend all classes and arrive on time – Missing a class (for whatever reason) means that you have missed out on a rich learning experience that may be difficult to recreate outside the classroom.
* Come to class prepared – Bring all necessary materials with you to class every day. If you are not sure if you need something, bring it anyway. The list includes a binder and paper/notes/course work, paper/pencil, and textbooks (if they are being used).
* Active participation – You must be involved in the discussions and activities that occur in the classroom. The more you participate, the more you will get out of every lesson. If you have suggestions of ideas or are having trouble getting involved come and see me.
* Complete assignments on time – Daily activities, homework, and larger assignments need to be completed fully and submitted promptly. If you fall behind, it will be harder and harder to keep up and you will eventually feel overwhelmed. There are many strategies in place if you miss something, so don’t be alarmed if you are asked to do extra work on your own time, to make-up for missed activities.
* Group Work**:** Much class time will be spent working in groups, either preparing written positions or participating in a role play or a class presentation. Effective group work is very rewarding but does not occur by accident - it demands patience, co-operation and effort. Group work will be evaluated sometimes simply by observed ability to stay on task and other times more formally by grading a written group submission.

**Assignments and Homework**

There will be lots of class time given to complete work (and it is an expectation that you are using your class time wisely), however, you should expect to do some homework each day. There will be small, daily assignments, as well as large projects assigned throughout the semester.

Due dates are strict as you will be given a lot of notice before a big project is due. If there is a problem with you making a deadline, please see me before or after class, ahead of the due date, so that arrangements can be made ahead of time.

**Mark Breakdown**

*Formative- In-class & homework: 35%*

* This will include worksheets, entrance/exit slips, informal presentations, group work, completing your homework, participating in class discussions, small projects

*Summative- Assignments: 65%*

* Each unit will consist of projects, and presentations

**Course Schedule: (subject to change)**

*Unit 1: COVID-19* Approx. Sept. 14- 18

*Unit 2: History (Genocide Studies)* Approx. Sept. 21- Oct. 9

Topics to be covered:

* What is Genocide
* Looking at examples of Genocide throughout history
* Causes and consequences
* Possible ways of preventing genocide from happening
* Inquiry project

*Unit 3: Law Studies (Criminology)* Approx. Oct. 13- Oct. 30

Topics to be covered:

* Purpose and history of Law
* What are crimes?
* Criminal Law (law and offences, criminal code, drug use, drinking and driving)
* Enforcing the Law and the Nature of Court
* Criminal Law vs. Civil Law
* Punishments
* Contract Law

*Unit 4: Human Geography* Approx. Nov. 2- Nov. 13

Topics to be covered:

* What is human geography?
* 5 themes of Geography
* Cultural landscape
* Culture and barriers
* Population (areas and change)
* Culture