

Social Studies 8

Course Outline and Class Expectations

Miss Janice Beck
 Room 216
jbeck@sd91.bc.ca
 Website: missbecksclass.weebly.com

Textbook: *Pathways: Civilizations Through Time*

APA Citation:

Cranny, M., & Jarvis, G. (1998). *Pathways: Civilizations through time*. Scarborough, Ont.: Prentice Hall Ginn Canada.



Overview

Welcome to Social Studies 8! Social Studies is designed to help you critically reflect upon events and issues in order to examine the present, make connections with the past, and consider the future. The aim of Social Studies is to help you become an educated citizen, which means being a thoughtful citizen who is able to acquire information, consider multiple perspectives, and make learned opinions and judgments. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to many different ideas and perspectives.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Applications of Social Studies</i> (skills you will use and improve)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ identifying a problem or an issue ➤ gathering information ➤ interpreting information ➤ analyzing information ➤ presenting information ➤ practicing active citizenship 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Society & Culture</i> (how people live)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ development and decline of civilizations ➤ significant cultural achievements ➤ medieval and Renaissance societies ➤ daily life, art, and religion ➤ cultural transmission and adaptation
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Politics & Law</i> (government & how it works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ power and authority ➤ evolution of legal systems and government ➤ collective and individual rights and responsibilities ➤ contact and conflict 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Economy & Technology</i> (trade, business, money & knowhow)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ early economic systems ➤ impact of trade and commerce ➤ transmission of goods and ideas ➤ impact of science and technology

<p style="text-align: center;">Environment</p> <p><i>(the world – where places are, why people live where they do, & how they deal with the land they live on)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ world geography ➤ exploration ➤ impact of physical environment on culture ➤ population distribution and resource use ➤ settlement patterns 	<p style="text-align: center;">Media Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We will examine what is going on in the world today using the internet, newspapers, magazines, etc. and talk about why it is important to know what is going on and how it affects us. ➤ We will watch, analyze, and reflect upon various documentaries that explore current issues and perspectives
<p>Social Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ a social standard that means that we will help people in need ➤ we will be doing various studies and small projects based on this idea 	

Materials

- A binder for handouts and in-class assignments
- Lined paper
- Pencil/pen
- Ruler
- *Pathways* textbook

Please come to each class prepared with all of your materials

Evaluation

Both formative and summative evaluation will be used to determine your progress. Formative evaluation is defined as the small, frequent work/quizzes that inform both the students and the teacher of the student's progress with the essential learning outcomes. Summative evaluations are the larger, less frequent assignments that measure a collection of learning outcomes. Typically, unit tests, major projects, and presentations are often used summative evaluation tools.

Each term:	Daily work/practice	20%	(practice work done on a regular basis, quizzes, etc...)
	Knowledge	20%	(tests, demonstrate knowledge learned activities, etc...)
	Oral	20%	(presentations, discussions, debates, questions...)
	Research	20%	(find that information please, some parts of projects...)
	Written	20%	(written work, paragraph writing, parts of projects...)
Final mark:	Terms 1 & 2	80%	
	Final exam	20%	

Each student will receive a copy of the Social Studies 8 Essential Learning Outcomes, and will self-assess their progress throughout the course, in conjunction with other formative and summative assessments.

Class Procedures

Leaving Class

Please check with the teacher **before** leaving the classroom. Any student leaving the classroom **must have** the **hall pass** with them.

Cell Phones

Should not be used during class time unless they are a part of the lesson.

LDSS cell phone policy:

At LDSS, we understand that a cell phone can be a useful tool in the context of student learning and as such we want to promote responsible use of this technology. Cell phone use that interferes with learning is prohibited and may result in the following:

- *be given a warning*
- *asked to give the phone to the teacher for the class*
- *have the cell phone removed until the end of the day*

Continued student offenses may result in the cell phone being kept until a parent meeting and/or suspension.

Music Players

May be used during independent work time.

Food/Drink

Students may bring healthy food/snacks and water or juice to class.

Expectations

*We are a community of learners who support and encourage one another to be our best selves. We show **commitment** to learning, **control** of our behavior, respectful **communication**, and **cooperation**.*

- ✓ Listen and interact with others in a respectful manner. Show respect by using appropriate language at all times; help to create positive and collaborative relationships.
- ✓ Ensure that the class is **safe** place to be, for everyone, as well as a place where everyone can learn. Take care of your property as well as that of others.
- ✓ Review your work regularly. You should take 5-10 minutes after every class and ensure that you understand what was covered. This also ensures that you will be prepared for in-class quizzes and ready for the final exam.
- ✓ If you are feeling overwhelmed or concerned that you are getting behind, talk to me. I will do whatever I can to ensure that you are successful in this course!

Other Details

I have created a class website for this course at: www.missbeckscsclass.weebly.com

I will use this website to post handouts, PowerPoints, project/assignment information, study guides, and anything else relevant to our class time together.



I have created a class account on Remind.com. Remind allows students and parents to sign up to receive reminders and updates via text message or email.

With Remind, all personal information remains completely confidential; teachers will never see your phone number, nor will you ever see theirs. I will be using Remind for this class, and encourage you to sign up for it, as it will help keep you on track with assignments, tests, etc. See the attached handout for instructions to sign up, and visit remind.com to learn more.



I also use my teacher Twitter account to post reminders/updates, as well as interesting and relevant articles to what we are studying. My username is **@missbeckscsclass**, and I use this account solely for teaching purposes.

Everything posted on our website, Remind, and Twitter will be covered and discussed in class. It is not mandatory that you use any of these, but I find that they can be useful tools to stay connected.

Students,

Please share this outline with your Parents/Guardians and return the signed outline back to me by **Friday February 13th, 2015.**

Parent /Guardian Information:

I am looking forward to working with your child in Social Studies 8 this semester. Please sign below to indicate that you have read the course outline. Please also include your email address, as I like to send regular email updates home about course assignments, etc.

Additionally, I have a class website that I regularly update with homework and resources pertaining to assignments and our course content. It can be found at: www.missbeckscs.weebly.com

If you would like to stay updated with what is going on in class, you can also sign up for "Remind" (details on class website), or you can follow my teacher account on Twitter (@missbeckscs).

I look forward to working with you to provide the best possible learning experience for your child.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Any other important information that you would like me to know:

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at jbeck@sd91.bc.ca or 250-692-7733 (school phone).

I hope that your son/daughter enjoys the course!

Thank you,

Janice Beck