

Alexandra Junior High School
Social Studies 7
Course Description

Objectives

This course will focus on Canadian history in general, and specifically consider the pre and post-confederation periods. **It is intended to develop in students an awareness of the origins, histories and movement of peoples who have contributed to the foundations of Canadian confederation, and of how political, demographic, economic, and social changes since confederation have influenced ways in which contemporary Canada has evolved.** The course is divided into the following two areas:

- 7.1 Toward Confederation
- 7.2 Following Confederation: Canadian Expansions

Methodologies

A variety of instructional techniques **focusing on critical inquiry** are used in the classroom: for example, analysis of historical processes and sources, presentations, debates, dramatic re-enactments, writing within a historical role, and visual representation. The objective of student critical thinking is to energize their learning by moving beyond passive receiving of information; when they have critically analyzed, interpreted, validated and applied the knowledge of their coursework they will understand. *“One gains knowledge only through thinking”* (Richard Paul). This emphasis on the student as an active learner will be accomplished using individual and group study techniques.

Our department focuses on the use of major projects, allowing the student to become meaningfully involved in content. In order to do this, the social studies and language arts courses are taught by one teacher who will integrate sections of the two courses, thereby providing time for more developed projects. Our department is moving toward extensive integration of the Humanities courses, and some teachers fully combine them, using the language arts learning objectives to teach the social studies content.

Evaluation

Students' marks for each of the four report periods are based on participation in class activities, assignments, and tests. Teachers will weight these components variously, depending on their own course requirements.

The student's final grade is based on four report card marks and the final exam.

First Report - 20%

Second Report - 20%

Third Report - 20%

Fourth Report - 20%

Final Exam - 20%

Appeal Procedure

Students and parents may appeal a test or assignment mark. An appeal for a review must first be made to the teacher. A further appeal may be made to the department head, and finally to the principal.

Supplies

- Large 3-ringed binder with lined and blank paper
- Highlighters, pencil crayon set, pencils, erasers, blue/black pens

