

## Social Studies

### ***SOCIAL STUDIES HONOURS COURSES***

*Students who meet Honours criteria after grade 8 and who have plans to take further Social Studies electives in their grade 11 or 12 years may wish to enrol in École Alpha Secondary's unique new self-directed Honours program each year. This self-directed inquiry approach offers motivated students the opportunity to explore and enrich their learning at their own pace. Students consult with grade-specific teachers and discuss an individual plan to enrich their own learning. A portfolio is then created which will showcase the growth in their learning as they meet the Honours criteria. After successful completion of the criteria, students may be eligible to receive Honours designation on their report cards. Success in the Honours stream means completing requirements independently, meeting deadlines, and checking in regularly with their grade-specific teachers. More information is available from any Social Studies department member.*

### **HUMANITIES 8 (Socials Studies and English Cohort)**

Students will take English and Social Studies every day from the same teacher and work on a blended curriculum. This interdisciplinary model will allow students to explore language arts and social sciences in a unique way. Students will explore the rise and fall of several major civilizations while developing their understanding of the diverse world of cultures that surround us. Students develop their skills at assessing documents (writings, drawings, records) for bias in order to understand history as more than a collection of facts. Students will also study short stories, poetry, novel(s), drama, and essays. Assignments will require that students write in a variety of formats and for a variety of purposes, and study skills will be addressed. Coherent paragraph development will also be emphasized, as well as an introduction to the essay.



### **DISCOVERY HUMANITIES 8 HONOURS (Social Studies and English Honours)**

The Alpha Discovery program is an enriched honours program. It is designed for students who are interested in and capable of pursuing a more challenging course of study. Classroom instruction and activities focus on the examination of broad and compelling themes or ideas that are relevant to many areas of study in the Social Sciences and Humanities. While students who are accepted into this program need to be reasonably strong writers and enthusiastic readers, the curiosity and desire to explore ideas through engaged discussion and other activities are key qualities. Hands-on classroom activities, field trips (one or more each month) and guest presenters are significant components of the program.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 9**

Students will study conflict as an agent of change – rebellions, executions, revolutions and wars mark massive changes to Europe's political and social landscape. Investigation of documents of the time, historical maps and graphic information helps students' critical evaluation skills and brings this time period to life in classroom activities. In part 2 of the course, students look at the early contact between the existing First Nations and European migrants. A critical look at the impact of colonialism and the economic system of mercantilism will be followed up with a look at the early relationship we had with our rebellious American neighbours. Throughout the course tools of geographers will be used to depict our past and evolving world.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 10**

Students focus on Canadian nation building: the rebellions, the marginalized groups of early Canadian society (women, First Nations, immigrants), political union, and the history of B.C. Continuing conflicts between First Nations and colonial Europeans arise as more contact is imposed by westward exploring and trading. Students learn to relate current issues facing all these same groups of Canadians today. Students will also be introduced to the Canadian economy and continue to learn about Canadian geography. Students continue use geographic tools in their analysis of historical events.

## **PSYCHOLOGY 11**

Psychology 11 is an introductory course on human behaviour and basic concepts in modern psychology. The aim of this course is to create enthusiasm for Psychology through various thought-provoking projects/assignments that will enable students to implement some of the theories that are presented in the text into real life. In addition, current events will be considered that is relevant to the issues under study. The activities will be of a general nature and everyone can participate without any reflection on one's individual personality.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 11**

Through their continued use of critical thinking skills, students will develop a greater understanding of global issues regarding economic disparity, social inequities and environmental degradation. They will exercise their ability to research issues for debate along themes of individual rights and responsibilities in Canadian society while gaining understanding of their role as active citizens influencing government and public policy. Students also will understand how key events such as the two world wars, the Depression, and the Cold War influenced Canadian autonomy in the world. The historical roots of regional, ethnic and gender conflict in Canada help students to understand the Canadian identity. *This course has a compulsory provincial exam that is worth 20% of the mark.*

## **BC FIRST NATIONS 12**

This course is primarily B.C. focused, emphasizing the traditions and history of British Columbia's First Nations people. The learning outcomes broaden this scope somewhat by providing opportunities to look at topics such as differing forms of First Nation self-government and the literature produced by indigenous authors from other parts of the world. The course is suitable for all students. Students can choose to take either Social Studies 11 or BC First Nations 12 to meet their graduation requirement. *This course has a compulsory provincial exam that is worth 20% of the mark.*

## **HISTORY 12**

This course looks at the major events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with a focus on European events, including the various political systems. Beginning with the aftermath of World War I and carrying through to the Cold War and the nuclear arms race, students will have the opportunity to discuss the many strong personalities and sometimes frightening events of this period. In addition, students will be introduced to the Asian powers and this century's conflicts in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, the Middle East and China.

## **GEOGRAPHY 12**

Students understand the topics of resources and resource management through studying people's interaction with an ever-changing environment. Humans affect their world through agricultural systems, biotechnology, mining and forestry and are in turn impacted by those environments through environmental degradation and natural disasters. The physical processes that affect the earth form the basis of students' understanding. Topics include plate tectonics, volcanism, earth-quakes, land scapes of the world, climate, weather, map skills, vegetation, and soils.

## **COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS 12**

This is an academically based survey course designed to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of features and accomplishments of past civilizations. Studies in disciplines such as art, architecture, philosophy, religion, technology and governance are included. The course looks at both European and non-European civilizations over a wide range of countries and periods in history.

## **LAW 12**

The course will provide a comprehensive introduction to law and legal process, particularly as they relate to the Canadian justice system. In addition to discussing the basic components of the law, the course will explore some of the major legal issues facing Canadians, including the parole system, young offenders and juvenile justice, and constitutional rights under the Charter. The course also includes a variety of classroom activities, which supplement the course material. Field trips, guest speakers, films, and documentaries all add to the course. Reading, writing and research skills are essential to student success. Students will analyze actual legal cases utilizing decision making techniques with their legal knowledge to determine case outcomes.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE 12**

Social Justice 12 is open to students in Grades 11 and 12. Grade 12 students will be given priority if there is limited space. The course has three focus areas: “defining social justice”, “recognizing, confronting and overcoming injustice”, and “moving toward a socially just world”. Students will be active participants in class discussions, will research issues of injustice, and will develop an action plan to address a selected issue. This will be a stimulating course for students interested in taking the initiative to direct their own learning and to use their acquired knowledge and skills to help create a socially just world.

## **PSYCHOLOGY 12**

Psychology 12 is a course on human behaviour and basic concepts in modern psychology. This course covers the five major psychological domains: methods, bio-psychological, cognitive, developmental, and socio-economic domain. This course is recommended for those students who have an interest in Psychology and wish to pursue it further at a post-secondary institution. The focus of this course is to develop students’ abilities with critical thinking, essay writing, research and experimental methods, academic reading, and oral presentations.

## **AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 12**

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth’s surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. Topics of study include urbanization and patterns of urban development, agriculture, demographics, industry and its location, spread of world languages and religions, and different uses of space by various cultures.

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## **AP PSYCHOLOGY 12**

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behaviour and mental processes of human beings and other animals. This course is recommended for those students who have an interest in a comprehensive study of the breadth and depth of Psychology and may wish to pursue it further at a post-secondary institution. This course focuses on developing student skills that will help them succeed in a post-secondary setting. This will include: critical thinking, essay writing, research and experimental methods, academic reading, and oral presentation skills.