

Name/Date:

MR. THIELMANN • D.P. TODD SECONDARY • FALL 2017

SOCIAL STUDIES 11 EXPLORATIONS



This is a new course that provides grad credits for Social Studies and also sets up our Grade 12 electives such as History, Law, Comparative Cultures, and Geography. This course course explores themes and topics such as Social Justice, First Nations Studies, Economics, Human Geography, Urban Studies, Philosophy, and Local History. Big Question: How are "history" and "place" a part of our everyday lives?

Two things that will be a part of our course through-out:

Critical Thinking -- e.g. the six historical thinking concepts (and matching geographical concepts_

Current Events -- what's making the news and what's the story within or behind or beyond it

Rules -- I don't have many... mostly I expect that students will operate with a few principles in mind:

- mutual respect -- treat the students, teacher, and learning space with dignity, safety, and calmness
- self-reliance -- take responsibility for your actions, attendance, work habits, expected work & progress
- balance -- there is a season (and time in class) for everything: teacher, student, together, alone, tech, no-tech
- curiosity -- ask thoughtful questions of your self, teacher, and classmates, and ask for help when you need it

In exchange, I will strive to make the class time as positive and productive as possible, minimize homework, and keep the focus on critical thinking, meaningful connections (including personal ones), and strong learning about our topics. I'm quite confident that any other "rules" we might use will be negotiable.

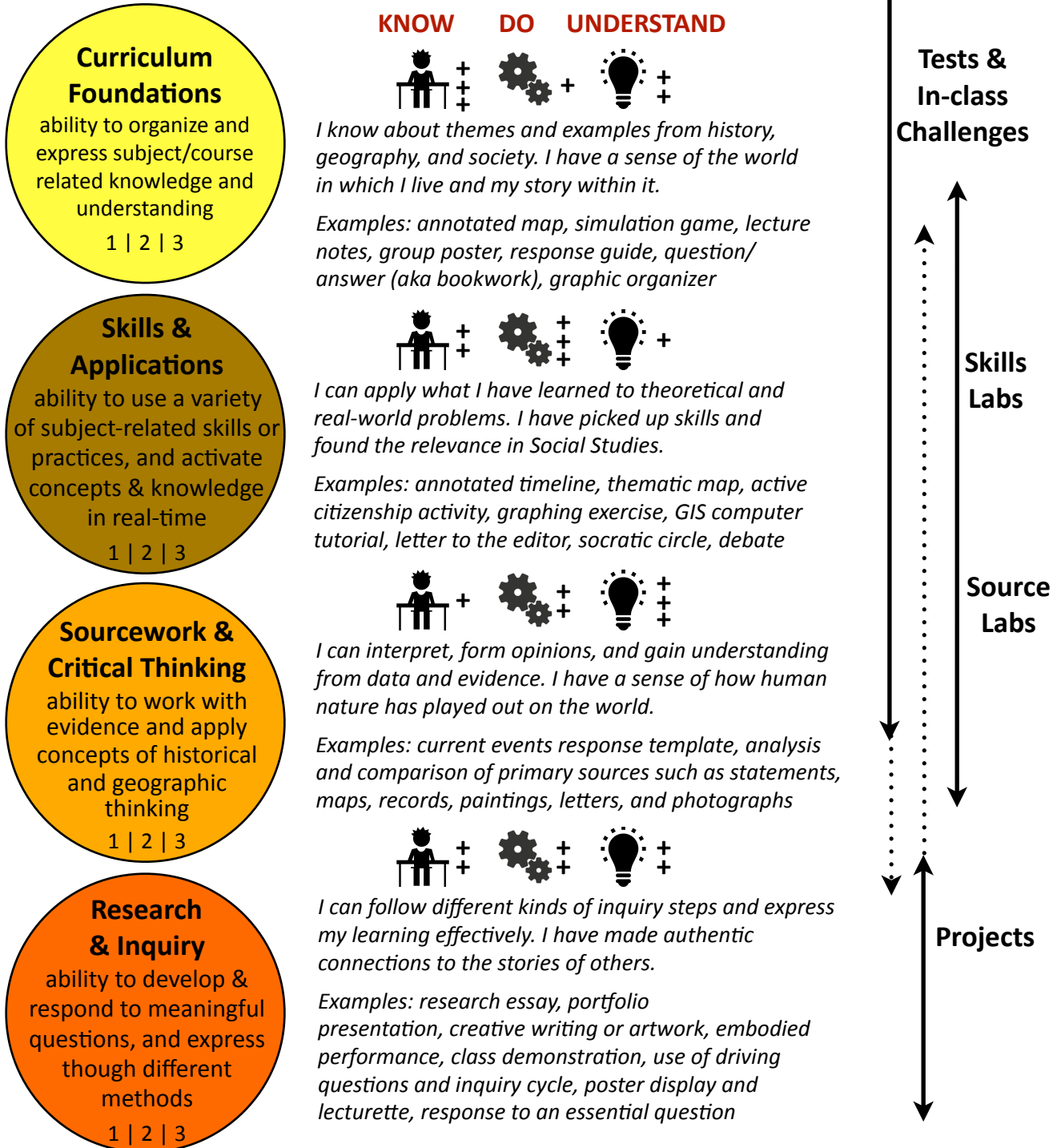
SOCIAL STUDIES 11 EXPLORATIONS - DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE	
UNIT 1 Human Geography	
Demographics & Population Change Issues in Global Development	about 3 weeks
UNIT 2 Local History	
Physical & Cultural Geography of the Central Interior History of Prince George field trip(s): cemetery, downtown walking tour	about 3 weeks
UNIT 3 Contemporary Indigenous Issues	
Aftermath of Truth & Reconciliation Commission Local Knowledge & Perspectives	about 3 weeks
UNIT 4 Economics	
Some theories about how economies can or should work, some related issues with our globalized economy Opportunity & Ethics: project work	about 3 weeks
UNIT 5 Philosophy	
Exploration of some of popular ways of thinking about life and the world, and how philosophy intersects with other concerns (e.g. ethics, economy, war, religion) and daily life	about 3 weeks
Big Project	
This will draw on themes from each of the units	about 2 weeks



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LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT IN SOCIAL STUDIES



What's this about? Students work from basic (Step 1) through satisfactory (Step 2) towards mastery (Step 3) in four areas that are essential sets of outcomes in Social Studies. Traditional tests and projects are used as assessment tools, but they provide evidence of progress rather than a direct tally to produce a grade. "Competency" work and assessment are embedded through-out. Student reflection and choice are required at key stages of assessment. Placements in the four categories will determine final grades.

Final Exam -- there is a final "summative" project for the course rather than a final exam. There is also a final exam that we use for determining a final grade for students who finish in the "satisfactory" category (two or three "Step 2" placements in the four sets of essential outcomes).