



English Language Arts / Social Studies 7 Course Outline

2017 - 2018
Ms. Otke



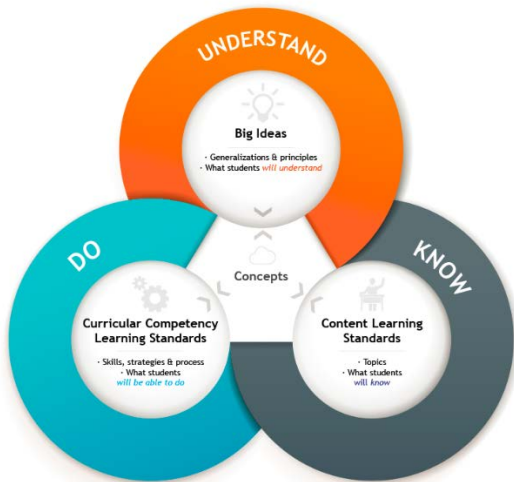
This year we will be studying a variety of different literary forms and themes. We will read short stories, poetry, novels, and much more!

In Social Studies, we will be studying the early history of the world, and several different cultures. We will examine many different types of sources, both primary and secondary.

In both classes, you will be able to research topics that interest you and share what you have learned with your classmates.

Curriculum:

The Social Studies and English Language Arts curriculums have been redesigned to meet the needs of the 21st Century Learner. More information can be found on the [Ministry of Education Website](#).



- **Communication** -The communication competency encompasses the set of abilities that students use to impart and exchange information, experiences and ideas, to explore the world around them, and to understand and effectively engage in the use of digital media.



- **Thinking** - The thinking competency encompasses the knowledge, skills and processes we associate with intellectual development. It is through their competency as thinkers that students take subject-specific concepts and content and transform them into a new understanding. Thinking competence includes specific thinking skills as well as habits of mind, and metacognitive awareness.
 - Creative Thinking
 - Critical Thinking



- **Personal and Social** - Personal and social competency is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses the abilities students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world.
 - Positive Personal & Cultural Identity
 - Personal Awareness & Responsibility
 - Social Responsibility

Some of the areas that we will explore this year:

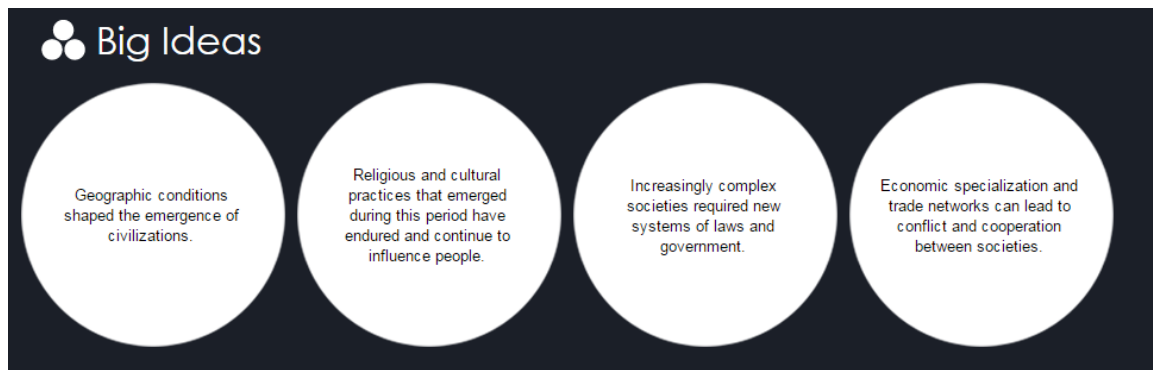
English Topics:



- Short Stories
- Letter Writing
- Creative Writing
- Paragraph Writing
- Essay Writing
- Novel Study
- Poetry
- Drama
- Grammar
- Speaking & Presenting

Social Studies Topics:

The primary goal of Social Studies education is to give students the knowledge (grade 7 focuses on Ancient Worlds to the 7th Century), skills, and competencies to be active, informed citizens who are able to think critically, understand and explain the perspectives of others, make judgments, and communicate ideas effectively. (Ministry of Education - [Social Studies 7 website](#))



- Early People
- Early Civilizations
- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- Greece
- Rome
- Mesoamerica
- Mapping
- Geography
- Current Events
- Historical Thinking

Assessment:

- Assessment encompasses a variety of formative and summative activities, and includes self, as well as teacher assessment.
- Up-to-date assessment information for each student will be available through Fresh Grade. Please see my website, or watch for the parent email in mid-September.
- Typically, assessment is weighed more heavily towards classroom assignments, not tests. As a result, it is my classroom policy that tests cannot be rewritten.
- See my [website](#) and “Expectations and Information” (below) for more information

Contact Information:

By E-mail: amber.otke-ropotar@sd23.bc.ca
In my classroom: E-3 (East Wing)
By Telephone: (250) 870-5108 (Okanagan Mission Secondary)

My Website: www.aotkeropotar.weebly.com

Materials Required:

1. 3-Ring Binder
2. Two different colored pens (pencil is not acceptable for final drafts)
3. Lined paper (there is quite a bit of writing in this class)
4. Pencil Crayons
5. Ruler & Eraser
6. Fine-tipped black pen (Trend Pen or Sharpie) for maps and other activities
7. USB Storage device (Google Drive is also available)

Silent Reading:

- Reading is an important part of the English Language Arts curriculum. Students should bring reading material to every class. Acceptable material includes books (fiction or non-fiction), magazines with significant written content (Rolling Stone, news magazines, etc.), and graphic novels. Physical books are preferred to e-materials.

A Note about Cell Phones:

- Cell phones can be an important educational tool. However, cell phones can also be a colossal distraction. Students should leave their cell phones and other devices in their lockers. If a student has their phone with them (for any reason), it should be set to silent. Students who are distracted by their phone during class time will have it removed. It will be available for collection at the end of the day.
- Students will be advised ahead of time if we are completing an activity where cell phones are permitted.

Attendance & Homework:

- Regular attendance is important for success in the classroom. Absence will impact student’s achievement. Students can check the teacher website for information on missed assignments.
- Students will generally have enough time to complete assignments during class time, however, students who do not use time efficiently will have work to complete at home.

Expectations and Information:

- All assignments are expected to be the student's own written work and ideas. Information downloaded from the Internet, or other sources, without the appropriate citation will be considered plagiarism, and be awarded a zero. This includes copying work from friends or siblings, and your own work from another class or a previous year!
- As this is a writing and composition-based course, **frequent** written assignments, notes and activities should be expected. Bring lots of paper!!!
- Editing is an important part of the writing process. Occasionally, assignments will be returned to the student for a rewrite. This is also part of the writing process. Please clarify errors with the teacher, rewrite, and then hand in. Rewrites are generally assigned a "0" or "R" grade, until they are completed in a satisfactory manner.
- Late projects and assignments are not tolerated. Please hand assignments in on time. Late assignments affect your work ethic mark.
- Keeping in mind that this is Humanities class, the use of proper (and appropriate) language (grammar & usage) is expected. Assignments using "txt"-speak will be returned for rewrites.
- Please keep in mind that what is written on the board, or presented during a PowerPoint is important information. While you do not have to copy word for word, actually writing it down is important. You may not take pictures.
- Any written work that is to be handed in should either be neatly printed or handwritten in pen (not pink, red, orange or yellow), or be typed (12 pt. font, Calibri or Times New Roman). All assignments should be double-spaced, unless otherwise indicated. *Final drafts written in pencil will not be accepted.*
- Due to severe allergy concerns, food is not allowed in the classroom. Water is permitted, and must have a spill-proof top.
- Please do not bring your toys to class. Fidget spinners and similar devices are considered toys. (Reasonable accommodations are available, and must be discussed with the teacher)
- **DO NOT WEAR HEADPHONES IN CLASS – EVER.**