

Social Justice 12 Course Outline

What is social justice? Social Justice is the assurance that the basic human rights of all people are upheld. Examine social justice issues such as racism, homophobia, sexism, poverty, and globalization. This course will offer you the opportunity to look at the causes and consequences of oppression and injustice, both in Canada and globally. Challenge yourself to be an educated, fair and open-minded global citizen! This is a project and research based course.

Throughout the Semester we will be covering the following topics in class:

1. **Introduction to Social Justice:** setting ground rules for productive and respectful discussion, building empathy, defining terms and concepts, examining ethics, creating empathy journal
2. **Social Justice Beliefs and Values:** examining belief systems
3. **Research Skills:** devising key questions, locating resources, assessing reliability and bias in resources, note-taking, citations.
4. **Systemic Analysis and the Dynamics of Poverty:** using this specific technique of social analysis to understand a situation or reality of injustice, examines social dynamics of power imbalance, exclusion, marginalization, etc.
5. **Aboriginal Peoples and the Law:** uses law as a lens to show students how government sometimes uses its power to commit acts of injustice.
6. **Examining LGBT Issues:** challenging homophobia, myths and facts, legal rights.
7. Women and Social Justice: looking at women's history, understanding feminist movement, oppression of women internationally.
8. **Genocide:** comprehend the historical significance of genocide, analyze historical evidence, assess inherent injustices, apply historical knowledge to current events, assess cause and effect.
9. **Globalization:** understand social justice as it relates to globalization.
10. **Social Justice Action Plan:** major project that consists of several integrated activities and extends over the duration of the semester. It provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate skills such as leadership, organization, and presentation. This will incorporate the concepts learned over the semester, demonstrate and understanding of the personal and organizational skills required needed to affect real change and raise student awareness.

Evaluation:

You will be assessed in the following areas:

Class Participation and Dialogue.....	15%
Projects, Assignments and Essays.....	50%
Learning Logs/Blogs.....	15%
Research and Action Plan.....	20%

****Rubrics and Assignment Outlines will be given for all major assignments****

Expectations:

You can expect to participate in many diverse activities in this course from discussions to debates, role plays and presentations, essays and personal reflections. There is NO textbook for this course, and most readings will be either handed out in class or put onto my website. Because of the nature of this course, students will be asked and often required to complete readings, and research at home and bring their findings to class. There are no examinations or quizzes for this course, but there will be a moderate amount of homework when assignments are given!

This is a student centered course, which means that a great deal of responsibility is placed on the students. Besides regular classroom expectations for behavior, students are expected to contribute to the learning environment and community at all times.

Lates and Absences:

Frequent or extended absences will make it difficult to keep up with the requirements of this course. Please make every effort to book holidays during school breaks. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed and complete those assignments. Please bring a note explaining any absences, and understand the parents and the Administration will be notified if there is a pattern of frequent unexcused absences or lates.

Cheating and Plagiarism

It is expected that you complete all the assignments on your own unless otherwise directed by your teacher. It is expected that all parts of your work will be in your own words, that they are not copied from other sources, unless used to support your position and properly cited. It is also expected that you will not knowingly let another student copy your work. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and their parents and the Administration will be notified.

Teacher Contact and Availability

If, for whatever reason you need to get in contact with me, concerning an assignment or questions regarding the class. Please contact me at the following:

headley_k@surreyschools.ca
@teacherheadley (Twitter)
(604) 595 8890

I am looking forward to having a wonderful semester with you!