GRADE 12
CURRENT TOPICS IN FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT STUDIES
FM40S

Ms. T. Tuchscherer Room 105 St. James Collegiate

Email: ttuch@sjsd.net
Website: tuchscherer.weebly.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies is a full-credit course intended for Grade 12 students, which examines Indigenous realities within contemporary and historic Canadian and global settings. The course is inclusive of the traditional values and worldviews of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

The objective of Current Topics in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies is to provide both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students with knowledge of Indigenous cultures and traditions, and to encourage Indigenous students to take pride in the accomplishments of their peoples. This knowledge will enable Indigenous students to participate meaningfully as citizens of their cultural community, of contemporary Canadian society, and as active and engaged global citizens.

Non-Indigenous students will become knowledgeable of the worldviews, histories, cultures, and accomplishments of Indigenous peoples, and thus be able to engage in an informed and empathetic manner in debates concerning Indigenous issues at local, national, and global levels.

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies offers all Grade 12 students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, an opportunity to:

- enhance their understanding and appreciation of the cultures and traditions, as well as the contemporary realities and aspirations of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures in Manitoba, Canada, and the world;

- develop a knowledge of the history of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada in order to better understand the present;

- develop a sense of comfort and confidence in interactions with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people;

- develop an understanding that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and cultures are an integral part of Canadian society;

- recognize the ongoing role of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in shaping Canadian history and identity.

(Grade 12 Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies: A Foundation for Implementation, 2011)
COURSE OUTLINE:

The course has been organized into 5 clusters:

1. **Image and Identity**
   In Cluster 1, students begin to explore contemporary Indigenous issues, their roots in the colonialist history of Canada, and their significance to all Canadians.

2. **A Profound Ambivalence: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit relations with Government**
   In Cluster 2, students examine the historic and contemporary relationship between Canadian (and later provincial and territorial) governments and Indigenous peoples. Students examine how the relationship, which began on a nation-to-nation basis, changed over time to reflect colonialist ideals and aims, and how, in the modern era, Indigenous Canadians are attempting to move from colonialism to a post-colonial future through recognition of their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

3. **Toward a Just Society**
   In Cluster 3, students examine historical and contemporary features of social justice and Indigenous people in the areas of education, health, justice, and economics. Students explore the historic roots of issues in each of these areas and explore their contemporary manifestations.

4. **Indigenous Peoples and the World**
   In Cluster 4, students explore the histories and contemporary realities of Indigenous peoples and cultures beyond Canada. Students explore the commonalities shared by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Canadians and Indigenous peoples worldwide. Students examine the effects of colonization on Indigenous populations as well as efforts to meet the challenges imposed by colonization and globalization.

5. **A Festival of Learning**
   Cluster 5 offers students an opportunity to share their learning with classmates, teachers, and others by creating and presenting a project that addresses a vision for the future of Indigenous peoples.

**Topics may include:**
- The history of Aboriginal peoples in Canada
- Aboriginal cultures, customs, art and religion
- European contact, colonialism, and conquest
- Treaties and Land Rights
- The Indian Act
- Assimilation and Residential Schools
- Racism, stereotypes, and portrayals in pop culture
- Land claims and environmental issues
- MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women)
- Worldviews
TEXTBOOKS:

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples: Exploring their past, present and future
Aboriginal Perspectives

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES:

Knowledge and Understanding:
The student acquires information about human interaction in societies past and present, near
and far. The student understands and applies key concepts. Through a study of grade level
topics and themes, the student acquires knowledge about life past and present in the local,
regional, national and global Indigenous communities and understands and applies concepts
related to Indigenous history, identities, cultures, and communities.

Research and Communication:
The student gathers, manages and shares information and ideas on a variety of topics and
themes. The student collects and interprets information from diverse sources and perspectives
and compares and evaluates the reliability of information sources. The student records,
organizes, expresses and shares information and ideas using a variety of media.

Critical Thinking and Active Citizenship:
The student thinks critically and creatively. The student connects learning to the responsibilities
and rights of citizenship. Through critical reflection and the application of learning to
citizenship, the student assesses the impact of individual and collective actions on the larger
community and proposes alternative approaches to social issues. The student takes an informed
and ethically defensible stand on Indigenous issues, supports democratic values, fairness and
human rights in daily life and accepts diversity and recognizes human commonalities in a
changing and complex world.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS:

- Traditionally, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples share a worldview of
  harmony and balance with nature, one another, and oneself.

- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples represent a diversity of cultures, each
  expressed in a unique way.

- Understanding of and respect for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples begin
  with knowledge of their pasts.

- Many current First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues are in reality unresolved
  historical issues.

- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples should be recognized for their
  contributions to Canadian society and share in its successes.