



Humanities 8

LA Matheson Secondary School

Mr. Lam

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Welcome to Humanities 8! In Humanities, we combine Social Studies and English to provide opportunities for students to better understand the world around them while improving their ability to communicate using the English language. By integrating the concepts of English with those of Social Studies, both subject areas are enhanced leading to a greater understanding and appreciation of each. This course will encourage you to develop your capacity to be an independent learner while you actively participate in a variety of learning opportunities, focusing on critical thinking skills, reading and writing skills, creative problem solving, and cooperative learning.

In Humanities 8, we work on developing the skills your future employers are looking for:

- **Communication**
 - Improve, writing, listening, and speaking skills
 - Improve reading comprehension and fluency
 - Explore various forms of literature
- **Collaboration**
 - Explore topics and develop skills while working with other students
- **Creativity**
 - Communicate using a variety of writing forms and styles, relevant to specific purposes and audiences
 - Explore a variety of forms to demonstrate your learning and understanding
- **Curiosity**
 - Explore historical events to gain a greater understanding of the world around us and why and how civilizations have developed and declined over time
- **Compassion**
 - Develop social responsibility
- **Critical Thinking**
 - Develop tools necessary to question, analyze, and think critically as we examine literature and history

Topics we will explore this year may include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Geography | 2. Civilizations / Roman Empire |
| 3. World Religions | 4. Medieval Europe |
| 5. Asia / Middle East | 6. European Renaissance |
| 7. Novel Study | 8. Short Stories |
| 9. Poetry | 10. Mechanics of Writing |

Note: topics will not necessarily be explored in this order. We will also supplement these topics with research and discussion revolving around current affairs and what is happening in the world around us.



Assessment and Evaluation:

Learning will be assessed through a variety of activities including:

- individual and group assignments
- quizzes/tests
- library research assignments
- homework
- projects
- oral presentations

You will have ample time in class to work on assignments, but it is your responsibility to complete all assignments. This may mean working on assignments outside of class time. Larger assignments requiring more than one class day to complete will often have due dates set in collaboration with the students.

Students are responsible for submitting all work at the beginning of class on the due date. If you do not hand in your work on time, you will receive an "Incomplete" until the assignment is submitted.

Students must submit all major assignments to meet the learning outcomes of the course and achieve a passing grade.

"You are responsible for yourself."

Materials:

- Textbook (provided): *Pathways: Civilizations Through Time*
- Student Agenda
- Supplies:
 - 2-inch 3-ring binder
 - topic/subject dividers (10)
 - 2 or more pens - black or blue
 - 2 or more pencils
 - eraser / white out
 - post-it notes
 - 1 duo-tang folder (to be left in class)
 - lined paper
 - ruler, scissors
 - pencil crayons
 - glue stick
 - pocket dictionary



Part of being responsible for your own success is ensuring you are prepared for class by bringing the following materials to EVERY class:

1. A **silent reading novel**. This must be a novel, but you may choose a genre which appeals to you. Graphic novels suitable for your age level are appropriate. Please see me or Ms. Blessin in the library if you are having difficulty finding something you would like to read.
2. Any **textbook(s)** we are using.
3. A **three-ring binder** (2" is best) with a good supply of **lined paper**. Please keep everything in your binder organized and in chronological order. It is imperative that you **date every piece of paper** in your binder.
4. Two **pencils**, two **blue or black pens**, a **red pen**, and a **highlighter**. All written assignments must be completed in blue or black ink.
5. Your **Student Agenda** in which you will record all homework and on-going assignments.

6. A **willingness to learn**. I can provide the resources, tools, strategies, and environment necessary for learning, but you have to take the initiative to do the learning. *"You are responsible for your own success."*

From time to time, you will need the following supplies:

1. Pencil crayons or felt markers
2. Ruler, scissors, and glue stick
3. Post-it notes

If you borrow supplies, from me or a classmate, you are expected to return them.

Academics:

You are responsible for your own learning!

- ✓ Be sure you have a clear understanding of each assigned task: the instructions, the due dates and my expectations. If you are not sure, ask! I am here most days, both before and after school for extra help - come and see me!
- ✓ Take pride in every assignment you produce. Take the time to ensure that your work is neat, complete and accurate.
- ✓ If you work hard, show consistent effort, get help when needed, and hand in all assigned work (on time), you will be successful in this course.
- ✓ You may find yourself in academic hot water, however, if you are selective in completing tasks or hand in poor or incomplete work.
- ✓ I will not assign make-up tests or extra work to pad your mark.

Attendance:

Consistent attendance is essential for successful learning. Students are expected to be in class, on time, every day.



If you are late:

Please have the courtesy of waiting at the door for a convenient time for me to invite you in. Those who arrive to class on time, and are ready to work, have priority.

If you are away:

The school expects a parent or guardian to call the school to advise us of your absence.

- ✓ When you return, you are responsible for finding out what you missed. In most cases, being away does not excuse you from doing the work. **Always check with me when you return to class.**
- ✓ You *must* come in after school to make up any missed assignment, test or quiz. **DO NOT WAIT FOR ME TO REMIND YOU!!!**
- ✓ Each student must have a "*buddy*" who will hand in assignments when one buddy can't attend class (for excused absences or school activity) and will pick up assignments, instructions and handouts for that buddy.

Buddy Information:

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Other: _____



Consequences:

- ✓ In most cases, 2 lates or unexcused absences will warrant a phone call home; further lates or absences will result in a referral to the office.

Behaviour:

Part of being responsible for yourself is having respect for yourself and others. **I have zero tolerance for anything less.** This means: no swearing or derogatory comments. It also means honouring and appreciating each person's individuality, allowing one person to speak at a time and to be heard by all, doing your best to participate in group discussions, and encouraging others to do the same. It also means listening when I speak to the class.



Consequences:

Any students choosing to not conduct themselves in a pleasant, cooperative manner can expect one or more of the following:

- ✓ to be advised to change their actions/behaviours
- ✓ detention or time out of class
- ✓ phone call home
- ✓ referral to the office

Honesty:

Be honest at all times. Cheating on an assignment, test, quiz or project will result in a **ZERO** for all parties involved.

Electronic Devices:



- ✓ **NO CELLULAR PHONES!** This is a big one - Do not bring your cell phone to class. Leave it in your locker. If you use your phone to send or receive a text, or it goes off during class, it will be taken away.
- ✓ **MP3 Players:** You may use them *quietly*, **ONLY** with prior approval and when working on individual assignments. If students fail to comply with the rules of this privilege, you will **LOSE** the **PRIVILEGE!!**

Food and Beverages:

Those who fuel their bodies with healthy food and fluids function more effectively. This means eating breakfast, healthy snacks, lunch, and dinner so that your body and brain can produce results! You are expected to do this



outside of class time; however, I not only allow, but encourage you to bring a water bottle to class. A well-hydrated brain will make you more alert and able to focus on your learning.

! Have fun in this class !

Working hard and coming prepared to learn will result in an enjoyable atmosphere for all.

STUDENT: I have read the Humanities 8 course outline and understand it. I will honour it while in Mrs. Stockli's classroom.

Please print name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dear Parents/*Guardians*:

Thank you for supporting your son/daughter in Humanities 8. This course outline informs you of the nature of the course, the topics we will be exploring, and the materials required. Please read through the course outline, and sign below.

Please also review and sign the Student Information Sheet supplied to your son/daughter to ensure that it contains accurate and up-to-date contact information which will allow for the best communication about your child's progress.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns at any time throughout the year. I look forward to helping your child succeed as a learner this year!

Sincerely,

PARENT/GUARDIAN: My child has discussed the Humanities 8 course outline with me. I have read it and will support it.

Please print name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**** Do not cut or tear this section off - the entire course outline will be returned to you to be kept at the front of your binder for easy reference. ****