

# Welcome to Social Studies 20-1

This is a relatively new course, so there will be some hiccups along the way, but Social Studies is my area of expertise, so I am confident that together, we can make this a successful and interesting course.



## Learning Focus, Overview and Rationale of this Course:

### *To what extent should we embrace nationalism?*

Students in Social Studies 20-1 will explore the complexities of nationalism in Canadian and international contexts. They will study the origins of nationalism and the influence of nationalism on regional, international and global relations. The infusion of multiple perspectives will allow students to develop understandings of nationalism and how nationalism contributes to the citizenship and identities of peoples in Canada.

Students will begin to understand that while nationalism has historically examined the relationship of the citizen to the state, contemporary understandings of nationalism include evolving individual, collective, national and state realities. Exploring the complexities of nationalism will contribute to an understanding and appreciation of the interrelationships among nation, nationalism, internationalism, globalization, and citizenship and identity. Developing understandings of the various points of view associated with nationalism as well as an appreciation for the perspectives of others will encourage students to develop personal and civic responses to emergent issues related to nationalism.

## Some basic things you need to understand about my approach to teaching and learning:

- I strongly believe that students need to be empowered with their learning. Learning is deepest when we actively engage in the process.
- I expect students to take control of their learning. I am here as a coach and guide to you in your learning process. I coach and guide you by helping you learn different strategies for learning as well as giving you feedback as you go through your learning process. My role is not to mark your stuff.
- My role is to review HOW you are learning WITH you and compare it to the curricular outcomes for the course and then help you stay on track with your learning and skill development to help prepare you for the eventual Provincial Diploma Exam in Social Studies 30-1. This process is called assessment of your learning. My primary role beyond coaching you in your learning is to ASSESS your learning (not mark worksheets and questions right or wrong...that is not assessment)

## How Will You Learn the Outcomes for this Course?

- The primary learning resource Argyll supplies to students for their learning in Social Studies is the web-based modules on the Learn Alberta website: [www.learnalberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.ca)
- You will also need the prescribed textbook
- You will follow the modules provided on the Learn Alberta website and complete any and all learning activities that you think will benefit you in YOUR learning process. Please note that NONE of the assignments in modules will be marked by me. At this point most students ask "Well if you aren't going to mark my work, why should I do it?" My answer to that question is that you should do the work to help you learn. I will not mark your learning work to assess your level of skill development and understanding, I will use specially designed assessment pieces to assess your level of skills and understanding.
- In the process of learning, I HIGHLY encourage students to take control of their learning. What does this look like? Well, it means that students can learn through the modules provided to them, but they can also enrich their learning process by accessing other resources that help to make their learning more exciting and interesting. What sorts of things can students do to enrich their learning process?
  1. You progress through each module, taking notes, tracking important vocabulary, completing learning activities that you think will help you learn
  2. You will read the appropriate chapters in your textbook and take notes and use learning suggestions from the textbook to further explore the issue/concepts you are learning
  3. You can attend supporting ELives (check my wiki: [abelkeatargyll.wikispaces.com/](http://abelkeatargyll.wikispaces.com/) for the Elive schedule)
  4. You are highly encouraged to initiate discussions and debates with your family, friends and community
  5. You can go to websites and check out resources that are recommended by your teacher (check out their wiki-page, webpage, etc)
  6. You can join discussion groups in the ASN for your class
  7. You can watch movies (both Hollywood based and documentaries) that deal with the issues and concepts of the module
  8. You can read books (fiction and non-fiction) and magazine articles that you may find on your own that focus on the issues and concepts you are learning
  9. You can search for resources and information on the internet using keyword searches from the module (Wikipedia, YouTube, etc)

Ultimately, this course is meant to help you learn more about the complexities of human interaction on this planet and to prepare you for the Social Studies 30-1 Diploma Exam that it eventually leads to.

All of the assessments for this course are modeled after the Social Studies 30-1 Diploma Exam, or they are to provide you with opportunity to help you communicate your learning and level of understanding and skill in a format that suits you best (the Project/Creative Response option for Assessment 3s)