

Civics Studies 11

Course Overview

Civics Studies 11 is a provincially examinable course that, upon completion, fulfills the social studies 11 Graduation Program requirement.

The aim of Civics Studies 11 is to enhance your abilities and your willingness to participate actively and responsibly in civic life. The course is “hands-on”, providing you with opportunities to voice your opinion and debate with others on civic matters – local to global.

Study will focus on government, law, rights and freedoms; their histories; civic discourse and action. Upon completion, students should view themselves as more informed and capable citizens, better equipped to make a difference in our community, nation, and world.

The Civic Mirror

An exciting feature of this civics course will be the use of *The Civic Mirror*. It is an online and face-to-face simulation that will turn our classroom into a country and you & your classmates into citizens. You will:

- a. Interact in an economy to provide for your own fictitious family,
- b. Implement a parliamentary civic system to prevent your country from slipping into a chaotic and corrupt mess, and
- c. Work towards fulfilling political and ideological Hidden Agendas.

The first-hand experience you will gain in *The Civic Mirror* as a citizen, politician, business-person, and family-provider *should* help you to appreciate & understand Canadian civics more than you would otherwise. It should be noted here that your participation in the simulation is *expected*... so I encourage you to “get into it”. You’ll get more out of the course (and earn a higher grade).

Units of Study

The course will be delivered in five units.

1. Political Philosophy

What is the best way people should organize themselves? Should we be equal, or should we be free? Believe it or not, millions and millions of people have been murdered in arguments (i.e. wars) over how best to answer questions like these. And really, really long answers are called philosophies. So, we will start the course by introducing you to political philosophy. It has to come first. Think about it: How could you decide whether or not you like Canada’s system if you didn’t know what else was out there? You’ll learn about the nature of government as well as specific philosophies like communism, fascism, and libertarianism. By the end of this quick unit, it’s expected that you will have developed your own mini-philosophy; one that you’ll be to develop throughout the semester.

2. Canadian Governance

In this unit, you will gain the knowledge and skills needed to influence and participate in the Canadian system of governance. What’s even more exciting is while you’re learning about each component of the Canadian civic system, you will also be constructing your own version of each of them in your *Civic Mirror* country. In other words, as you study Canada’s constitution, you will be creating your *own*. As you study the electoral process, you will be electing your *own* government. As you study how laws are made in parliament, you’ll learn how your *own* parliament will work. And, as you study Canadian legal system, you’ll learn how you’ll be able to sue people in your own national court. At the end of this unit, your simulated nation will be good-to-go and you will know how to be a “citizen of influence” in your *Civic Mirror* country.

3. Civic Action Plan

Another exciting feature of this course is the Civic Action Plan. This is CS11's major project. Basically, rather than writing an essay or presenting in the classroom, you will gain experience being an active citizen in your *real-life* community by endeavouring to change something about it. You might lodge a complaint at White Rock or Surrey city hall, organize a protest, or start a petition in order to make change occur. Two options will exist: i) you (and a partner) may work on a civic initiative independently, reporting on your progress at certain milestones, or ii) you may work with the "class group" on an agreed upon civic plan

4. Canadian Culture & Heritage

In this unit, students will research events related to the theme of culture, language, and community; examine the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and its reflection of the fundamental principles of democracy; and examine the history of the Canadian social safety net. All of these activities will be done with a focus on understanding how individual events can lead to the creation of a national identity. From this work, students will formulate their own answers to the question, "What does it mean to be a Canadian citizen?"

5. Canadian International Relations

Over the last century, Canada has emerged from a relatively isolated state to a country with recognizable economic and political influence, especially with respect to international human rights and peacekeeping. In this unit, we will explore some of those changes, and examine how they have influenced Canadian identity. You will evaluate the different ways in which Canada is involved internationally, explore case studies involving various international organizations and bodies to which Canada belongs, and debate the extent to which Canada should be involved in certain issues.

Marks Breakdown

1. Attitude & Participation = 10% (12.5% before provincial exam)

These marks are yours for the taking. It's really quite simple. Come to class (on time); be respectful when you speak and when you listen; and get involved. If you do all that, you've added 10% to your final grade.

2. Homework = 20% (25% before provincial exam)

Homework is the work you are supposed to do on a daily basis – not work that you necessarily have to do "at home". When I was in high school & university I discovered that most people I knew found it very easy to *not* do things like chapter readings and rough drafts (for essays) if they weren't for marks. When I started teaching, I realized my students were the same. So, to help you out, I place a lot of emphasis on homework (as much as the provincial exam). When you do well on your homework, it's like giving yourself a gift that keeps on giving. First you get a high homework mark. Second, you'll do better on the provincial exam.

3. Major Tasks = 50% (62.5% before provincial exam)

Major tasks are things that you do to show me that you understand what you're supposed to understand by taking this course. Major tasks include things like unit exams, essays, vocabulary lists, major projects, and your performance in *The Civic Mirror*. The Major Task worth the most marks will be the Civic Action Plan.




4. Provincial Exam = 20%

No joke, if you work your derriere off in this course you'll find this exam a breeze. The CS11 provincial is 55 multiple choice questions and 2 essay responses. Don't worry, I will do my very best as a teacher to make you totally prepared for this final exam – assuming you're willing to do the work needed along the way.

continued ... BC's CIVIC STUDIES 11 with *THE CIVIC MIRROR*

From (date 1)

To (date 2)

	DAY 81	DAY 82	DAY 83	DAY 84	DAY 85
WEEK 17	REFLECTION & CONNECTION + EXAM PREP				
	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Reading check - Yr.2003 Ends - HA App's - Given Course-End Reflection & Connection Task.  	<i>IN-CLASS</i> - Yr. 2002 Self-Eval's - R&C work period 	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Intro to Tackling the Provincial Exam - 6 point scale review - multiple choice - CS11 exam specs	<i>IN-CLASS</i> - Given practice exams, must do mult. choice sections - Work / study period	<i>IN-CLASS</i> - Mark own practice exams - Vocab King's Court
	<i>H/W</i>	<i>H/W</i>	<i>H/W</i>	<i>H/W</i> - practice multiple choice - prep for Vocab King's Court	<i>H/W</i> - Course-End Reflection & Connection Task
	DAY 86	DAY 87	DAY 88	DAY 89	DAY 90
WEEK 18	EXAM PREP				
	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Due: Course-End R&C Task - Exam Essay Topic #1 – (p.4) Rights & Responsibilities	<i>IN-CLASS</i> - Review group work - Exam Essay Topic #2 (p.4) – Governance	<i>IN-CLASS</i> - Exam Essay Topic #3 (p.5) – Domestic Issues	<i>IN-CLASS</i> - Exam Essay Topic #4 (p.5) – International Relations	<i>IN-CLASS</i> - Vocab King's Court - Final thoughts and comments
	<i>H/W</i> - group essay outline preparation	<i>H/W</i> - group essay outline preparation	<i>H/W</i> - group essay outline preparation	<i>H/W</i> - group essay outline preparation	<i>H/W</i> Study for the provincial exam ... good luck!

	DAY 91	DAY 92	DAY 93	DAY 94	DAY 95
WEEK 19	EXAM WEEK				
	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Nothing scheduled	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Nothing scheduled	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Nothing scheduled	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Nothing scheduled	<i>IN-CLASS</i> Nothing scheduled
	<i>H/W</i> Study brains out	<i>H/W</i> Study brains out	<i>H/W</i> Study brains out	<i>H/W</i> Study brains out	<i>H/W</i> Study brains out