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**Social Justice 12**

Mz. Hope [ghope@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ghope@sd61.bc.ca) mzhopesclass.weebly.com

**The Big Ideas of Social Justice 12:**

* Social justice issues are interconnected.
* Individual worldviews shape and inform our understanding of social justice issues.
* The causes of social injustice are complex and have lasting impacts on society.
* Social justice initiatives can transform individuals and systems.

**What does this mean for you, the student?**

I expect you to bring your own knowledge, opinions, beliefs, convictions, and culture to class. You will be invited to share this knowledge, to contrast it with that of others, and to challenge it with new information. You will use multiple literacy strategies in order to increase comprehension and extend your knowledge and insight into action in the form of school events, projects, fieldtrips, research, and community involvement. This is a grade 12 academic course.

**A note about sensitivity and appropriate behaviour:**

* We will cover some tricky material and the nature of discourse and debate can lead to some unexpected or unpredictable topics. It is natural to feel uncomfortable or upset at times. When we feel like this, and when we are keenly learning through it, we can experience something called “disequilibrium.” This can be a powerful place to exist! However, it can also mean we act out or vocalize in potentially harmful ways. We will recognize as a class that we are here to learn; we won’t always get it right. But, **deliberate use of insulting, racist, sexist, or otherwise intentionally discriminatory language and actions will not be tolerated.**
* It is important that you know where to turn if things really challenge you or bring things up. Our school has amazing counselors who are more than willing to see you, hear you, and provide some perspective and tools. Lisa Roy, Mark Sheremeta, and Gen Walsh (Youth and Family Counsellors), Joanne Mitchell and Frank Conibear (Aboriginal Education), Martha Deitiker, and Paula Manning (International program) are all available by appointment.
* Phone use: please remove your phone from your close vicinity. You are expected to interact PERSONALLY with your classmates and teacher. You will be given a “phone and text break” half way through class.
* Lates: everyone is late *sometimes.* Life can step in. If this happens, come in quietly and respectfully. Your classmates do not need to be disrupted.
* Attendance means more than simply your body being placed in a seat. It means to **ATTEND: to pay attention, to listen, to watch, to direct one’s thought, to pay heed.** It comes from Latin attendere: **to bend to, to notice.** You are presumably here because you want to be.

**What will we learn?**

Our units of study are outlined on the website and the entire semester is up on a large paper calendar in the classroom. Your assignments will range from informal discussions to formal presentations, from personal writing to scholarly research, artistic explorations, community involvement and responding to guest speakers.

**I consider it an honour and a privilege to work alongside you, facilitating this journey. Every single time I teach this course, it is different and that is because we learn as a community: we all bring something different to it. I thank you in advance for the questioning, sharing, and challenging we are about to embark upon! Let’s begin!**