

Individuals and Societies: Global Studies 7  
Meredith Middle School 2018-2019  
Mr. Brennan and Mr. Freese

Course Purpose

“MYP individuals and societies encourages learners to respect and understand the world around them and equips them with the necessary skills to inquire into historical, contemporary, geographical, political, social, economic, religious, technological and cultural factors that have an impact on individuals, societies and environments. ...The study of individuals and societies helps students develop their identities as individuals and as responsible members of local and global communities.”

from the *MYP Individuals and Societies Guide*, copyright 2014 (page 4)

Introduction: Identity- Who are you?

Semester: Fall

An inquiry into ourselves. Students will seek to answer the questions of “Who am I?” and “Who are we?” As they begin to understand their own identities, they will work towards understanding the identities of others. Students will then create a story that explains how identity influences their thoughts and actions.

District Standards Assessed:

Explain how people see and think about the world

Use information from sources to come to a reasoned conclusion

Write informative text

Additional IB Criteria Assessed:

Communication

Thinking Critically

Unit One: Black History

Semester: Fall

An inquiry into Black history from Mansa Musa through the continental slave trade and the middle passage into the systems of chattel slavery in the Western Hemisphere and colonialism. From there we will look at the invention and roots of racism and its effects. Ending the unit with civil rights in the United States and Apartheid South Africa.

District Standards Assessed:

Explain how events in the past have changed a country.

Additional IB Criteria Assessed:

Explain how people's views and beliefs have changed over time.

Unit Two: Immigration

Semester: Fall

An inquiry into immigration. We will focus heavily on immigration from Mexico and Central and South America. We will also look at conflict in Africa as a push factor for migration/immigration. We will focus on current policies in the US and discuss the ethics and effectiveness of detention facilities and the separation of families.

District Standards Assessed:

- Explain what causes people to think and behave in the way they do.
- Explain how and why people move from one part of the world to another and why communities exchange goods and ideas.
- Explain how people live in certain areas in the world and how they try to change their environment to better suit their needs.

Additional IB Criteria Assessed:

Knowing and Understanding  
Thinking Critically  
Communication

Unit Three: Globalization

Semester: Fall

An inquiry into consumer voice and choice sustainability and the social environmental impact of consumerism.

District Standards Assessed:

- Evaluate how economic choices impact individuals, businesses, and societies.
- Explain how supply and demand impacts standard of living.
- Research how countries relationships impact trade
- Explain the importance of natural resources And why different countries trade with each other

Additional IB Criteria Assessed:

Knowing and Understanding  
Investigating  
Communicating

Unit Four: Inequality

Semester: Spring

An inquiry into poverty and homelessness in America and the influence of systems such as Red Lining in perpetuating cycles of poverty. We will look at the Caste system in India and discuss if a caste system exists in the US.

District Standards Assessed:

- Examine the causes of inequalities within a society.

Additional IB Criteria Assessed:

Knowing and Understanding

Communicating

Unit Five: Human Rights

Semester: Spring

An inquiry into Human Rights. Students will look at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and compare it to the Declaration of Independence. Students will look at human rights violations around the world both in the past and present as well as the purpose of the United Nations. Students will learn and compare genocides such as the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, and the current conflict/genocide in Myanmar against the Rohingya minority. Students will also discuss human rights violations against the LGBTQ+ community and analyze the US prison system.

District Standards Assessed:

- Explain how individuals and groups can affect global change
- Examine the role of laws, treaties, and international agreements in solving global issues
- Describe how different groups shape people's lives
- Analyze Iowa's role in contemporary global issues

Additional IB Criteria Assessed:

Knowing and Understanding

Investigating

Communicating

Thinking Critically