

Social Sciences

*He aha te mea nui o te ao?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata*

Social Sciences at Western Heights High School aims to help you understand your world and teaches you the skills to become actively involved in society.

Social Science is one of the eight essential learning areas specified by the New Zealand Curriculum. Social Studies is taught as a core subject in Years 9 and 10 before diversifying into a range of other subjects in the senior school.

Available at Year 11 are: Geography, History, and Senior Social Studies.
Available at Years 12 and 13 are: Geography, History, and Senior Social Studies, Classical Studies, Media Studies, Sociology and Tourism.

Staff in the Social Sciences Learning Area:

Mr Ward (Head of Learning Area)

Miss A Baird

Mrs R Broadley

Mrs R Brown

Mrs J Collins

Mr J Hooker

Mrs S Mullen

Mrs R Pearce

Ms B Ropiha

Mrs P Sutton

Miss A Thompson

Mrs J Wood

Mr S Wrigley

LEARNING PATHWAY

YEAR 9 SOCIAL STUDIES

In Year 9 Social Studies we study how people organise and control themselves. We study different cultures and societies and the beliefs, rules, laws, customs and lifestyles that they have. We all belong to social groups or communities, for this reason we will study the many differences in these groups and the way they work.

YEAR 10 SOCIAL STUDIES

In Year 10 Social Studies we look at how people bring about changes and how they are affected by change. Students learn how to gather different kinds of information from a variety of sources, process this information, and

present it in a range of different ways. This people-oriented, information handling subject helps prepare students for understanding and decision-making in the adult world.

YEAR 11 SOCIAL SCIENCES

Geography- NCEA Level 1

Geography studies the environment as the home of people. At Year 11 we examine: how extreme natural events affect us; how we use resources to improve our lives; and how population changes and processes occur. Fieldwork, local and global issues, and a wide range of skills are a part of this subject.

History- NCEA Level 1

Students will study Modern History Case Studies selected from the following themes:

- Social change
- Revolutionary leadership
- Conflict
- Race Relations

Social Studies - NCEA Level 1

Social Studies is a course for students who are interested in exploring the differing reasons why people participate within society. It is concerned with the study of interactions across numerous and diverse cultures, societies, and environments – and what happens when they collide. Themes include (but are not limited to)

- McDonaldisation
- The Mighty Mall
- Animal Welfare
- Tourist Ventures in the Pacific

YEAR 12 SOCIAL SCIENCES

Geography - NCEA Level 2

This course aims to help students develop an understanding of the environment as the home of people. In studying the interaction between natural and cultural features, students will develop thinking, practical and social skills that are useful in a very wide range of occupations. In addition, pupils may carry out local area studies and studies of current geographic issues eg. resource use, environmental problems and global issues.

History - NCEA Level 2

Students will study three topics based on modern history case studies:

- Vietnam and the Conflict in Indo-China 1945 – 1975
- The Weimar Republic and the Nazi State

- Gandhi and his contribution to the Independence of India

Social Studies- NCEA Level 2

Social Studies is a course for students who are interested in exploring the differing reasons why people participate within society. It is concerned with the study of interactions across numerous and diverse cultures, societies, and environments – and what happens when they collide. Themes include (but are not limited to)

- Body Image
- Battle of the Bands
- Landmines
- The Peacekeepers
- Cultures at Conflict
- Rogernomics

Classical Studies - NCEA Level 2

Classical Studies at Level 2 examines the Classical World of Ancient Greece and Rome. Classical studies is a “multi-disciplinary” subject, including a number of different types of study, eg history, literature and art. Topics studied will be a selection from: Greek and Roman Mythology; Greek Drama; Roman Politics in the time of Caesar; Art in Pompeii and Herculaneum; Athenian and/or Roman Social Life; and Athenian Democracy.

Media Studies - NCEA Level 2

Media Studies at Year 12 has seven achievement standards covering a variety of media texts. Students will study Media Audiences, Stereotypes, genre and a variety of films. Students also learn how to use technology to produce a music video and news report show

Sociology – NCEA Level 2

An important component of this course is practical work where students carry out research work that requires skills for collecting data, observing behaviour, asking questions, undertaking surveys and researching media sources. Students are also given an introduction to sociological theories.

Tourism Studies – NCEA Level 2

This course is designed both for students who wish to gain pre-vocational training and for those intending to pursue tertiary studies in this rapidly growing employment sector. There will also be the opportunity to gain Unit Standard credits towards the National Certificate in Tourism and Travel (Level 2).

.YEAR 13 SOCIAL SCIENCES

Geography - NCEA Level 3

This course aims to help students develop an understanding of the environment as the home of people. In studying the interaction between natural and cultural features, students will develop thinking, practical and

social skills that are useful in a very wide range of occupations. There may be an opportunity for participation in a major trip, possibly overseas, as part of this course.

History - NCEA Level 3

The area of study for internal assessment will be the Tudor and Elizabethan period.

The area of study for external assessment will be New Zealand in the Nineteenth Century, with the focus on Maori/Pakeha Relations, Economic and Political Change and Society and Attitudes

Social Studies - NCEA Level 3

Social Studies is a course for students who are interested in exploring, in depth, the differing reasons why people participate within society. It is concerned with the study of interactions across numerous and diverse cultures, societies, and environments – and what happens when they collide. Themes include (but are not limited to)

- All the “isms” (terrorism, neo-liberalism, racism, etc)
- Globalisation
- ‘A Political Game’ – the 1981 Springbok Tour

Classical Studies - NCEA Level 3

Classical Studies is the study of the civilisations of Ancient Greece and Rome and the historical importance of classical civilisation in the cultural tradition of Western Europe, which is an important part of contemporary NZ culture. Four topics (two Greek and two Roman) are covered. They are chosen from: Augustus, The Aeneid, Juvenal’s Satires, Greek Vase Painting, Attic Old Comedy and Socrates.

Media Studies - NCEA Level 3

Media Studies at Year 13 contains seven achievement standards and one unit standard. It covers an in-depth investigation of an industry and of the impact media has on New Zealand. Students also study films, genre and audience. Students will produce either a short film or documentary

Sociology – NCEA Level 3

An in-depth look at human behaviour, social organisations, social institutions, social structures, reviewing societal issues and researching media. Practical work is an important component of the course where students will carry out research work that requires skills for collecting and analysing data. Students will also further their knowledge of Sociological Theories and Sociologists.

Tourism Studies – NCEA Level 3

This course will complete the National Certificate in Tourism (Introductory Skills) for those pupils who were successful at Level 2 Tourism. For all students, it offers up to 30 Credits at Level 3 and excellent preparation for tertiary study.

