**The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario**

**St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School**

**Grade 12 University Preparation**

**Political Science**

**CPW4U**

**School year 2011-12**

**Credit Value:** 1.0

**Teacher:** Mr. R. D’Alessio

**Class website:**www.sta-**russell**.com/ (click on class websites, course code/D’Alessio) (Please see class website for due dates, files, and links.)

**Prerequisite:** Any university or university/college preparation course in Canadian and world studies, English or social sciences and humanities.  
**Curriculum Policy Document:** Canadian and World Studies, The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12, 2005 (Revised)  
**Department:** Canadian and World Studies

**Course Description**

This course examines Canadian and world politics from a variety of perspectives. Students will investigate the ways in which individuals, groups, and states work to influence domestic and world events, the role of political ideologies in national and international politics, and the dynamics of international cooperation and conflict resolution. Students will apply critical thinking and communication skills to develop and support informed opinions about current political conflicts, events, and issues.

**Overall Expectations**

The students are expected to:

1. read and demonstrate an understanding of texts from various periods, with an emphasis on analyzing and assessing information, ideas, themes, issues, and language;

2. use a variety of print and electronic primary and secondary sources.

5. use a variety of organizational structures and patterns to produce coherent and effective written work;

7. demonstrate an understanding of a variety of political issues, the political spectrum, and the relationship between politics and culture, religion, democracy, and media.

8.Curriculum:

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| Overall Expectations | |
| 020.100.01.01 | explain the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens, groups, and states in the international community; |
| 020.100.01.02 | describe the main ways in which sovereign states and non-state participants cooperate and deal with international conflicts; |
| 020.100.01.03 | evaluate the role of Canada and Canadians in the international community; |
| 020.100.01.04 | describe the structure and function of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; |
| 020.100.01.05 | evaluate the role and operation of the international human rights protection system. |

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| **Titles and Descriptions** | **Time and Sequence** |
| Unit 1 | **Introduction to Politics**  This course and unit begins with the topic, A Study of Politics, followed by an introduction to the basic concepts of political science. Students will spend some time on the concept of ideology and search out their own political ideology. | 20 hours |
| Unit 2 | **Government and the Political Process**  This unit begins with an examination of the forms of government and models of political processes. Students will then have a look at how roles in the political process function. | 20 hours |
| Unit 3 | **Canada and the International Political System**  Three significant topics are investigated in this unit: a system of sovereign states, Canada's International Policy, and the role of non-governmental organizations in international affairs. | 20 hours |
| Unit 4 | **Issues and Answers: National and International Politics in Practice**  The unit begins by looking at the topic of national unity in Canada. From there Canadian and American relations are the topic of discussion followed by the serious issues involved in national and international security in the post 9/11 world. The reality of the politics of economic globalization will fascinate students as will the timely topic of environmental issues as they relate to world politics. The unit concludes with the topic of human rights at home and abroad. | 40 hours |
| Unit 5 | **Future Shock: Culminating Activities in Canadian and World Politics**  As the title suggests this unit turns an eye toward the future as students examine likely scenarios as they relate to the great powers of tomorrow on the world's stage, looking at data concerning Canada, the European Union, the United States of America, and China in particular. This unit is followed by a final exam, worth 30% of a student's mark. | 10 hours |
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**Teaching / Learning Strategies:**

Students learn best when they are engaged in a variety of ways of learning. Canadian and world studies courses lend themselves to a wide range of approaches in that they require students to research, think critically, work cooperatively, discuss relevant issues, and make decisions about significant human concerns. When students are engaged in such active learning strategies, they tend to retain knowledge for longer periods and to develop meaningful skills.

Active learning strategies also enable students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-life issues and situations. This course is constructed with a variety of learning activities which require students to be actively engaged in their own learning. Students will use a variety of case studies, read and answer questions, seek additional guided research on specific topics, prepare activities to demonstrate their understanding including slide presentations, research essays, lesson plans, and position papers. Students will also participate in two discussions with course peers and the teacher. In combination, such approaches promote the acquisition of knowledge, foster positive attitudes towards learning, and encourage students to become lifelong learners. Students are encouraged to relate the knowledge and skills gained to issues and problems in the world outside. It is essential to emphasize the relationship of Canadian and world studies to the world outside school so that students recognize that these areas of study are not just school subjects but fields of knowledge that affect their lives, their communities, and the world.

There will be guest speakers in this course (an MP(s), an MPP(s), someone from the media, and another teacher who will co-teach a lesson the political spectrum

There will be a class trip to Question Period at the House of Commons on Parliament Hill.

**Literacy, Numeracy, and Inquiry/Research Skills.** Success in Canadian and world studies courses depends in large part on strong literacy skills. Many of the activities and tasks students undertake in Canadian and world studies courses involve the use of written, oral, and visual communication skills. For example, students use language to record their observations, to describe their inquiries in both informal and formal contexts, and to present their findings in oral presentations and written reports. The language of Canadian and world studies courses includes special terms associated with the subjects that the program encompasses. The study of these subjects will thus encourage students to use language with greater care and precision and will enhance their ability to communicate effectively. The Canadian and world studies curriculum also builds on and reinforces certain aspects of the mathematics curriculum. For example, clear, concise communication may involve the use of various diagrams, charts, tables, and graphs to organize, interpret, and present information. In all courses in Canadian and world studies, students will develop their ability to ask questions and to plan investigations to answer those questions. They need to learn a variety of research methods in order to carry out their investigations; they also need to know which methods to use in a particular inquiry. Students will learn how to locate relevant information from a variety of sources, such as books, newspapers, field studies and interviews, climate maps, aerial photographs and satellite images, diagrams and charts, and electronic sources.

**Course Materials and Resources**

TEXTS           Canadian and World Politics

The book assigned to you is your responsibility; you are responsible for returning the

same book in good condition. If you lose or damage any texts, you will be required to pay for them.

REQUIRED MATERIALS               3-ring binder with dividers            pencil

                                                            blue or black pen                     thesaurus/dictionary

                                                            different coloured pen for

                                                            highlighting/underlining

**Evaluation**

Each student will be given a variety of opportunities to demonstrate the extent to which he/she has met the expectations of this course. His/her final grade will be a percentage that represents the student’s overall achievement of curriculum expectations based on

his/her most consistent level of achievement.

                        70%            summative assessments throughout the semester

                        30%            final assessments including examination

Each student must complete all final assessments in order to be eligible to receive the credit.

One of the goals of any course is the development of the work and study skills needed to succeed in the workplace and in life. Each student’s work and study skills will be monitored throughout the semester and will be recorded (separately from your grade) on the report card as follows:

E = Excellent                G = Good   S = Satisfactory            N = Needs Improvement

The categories being assessed are:

-         Works Independently

-         Teamwork

-         Organization

-         Work Habits / Homework

-         Initiative

**Policies and Expectations**

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Ø      Be on time and fully prepared for each class.

Ø      Participate actively in class by asking questions and sharing your knowledge.

Ø      Demonstrate respect and responsibility at all times.

Ø      Maintain a quiet, productive working environment by focussing on tasks, staying seated, and raising your hand to speak.

Ø      Be positive—about yourself, your abilities, and the contributions of others.

 \*Please note that if it’s a rule in the STA student agenda, it is a school rule and therefore it is a class rule (for example: uniform and use of cell phones/electronic devices policies)

ATTENDANCE:

Your regular attendance is an integral part of learning, therefore all lates and absences will be recorded on your report card. You are responsible for all the material studied in this class. When homework is checked and/or assignments are collected on a day or days when you are legitimately absent, the due date and the mark assessed for that work will be at the discretion of the teacher. No homework or assignments will be accepted unless accompanied by a parent note explaining the absence. If a student is absent for previously scheduled group work, his or her mark that day may be zero. It is your responsibility to inform the teacher in advance of your absence from class due to a school-related event and to update your notes, prepare for tests, etc. in the event of any absence. If you know that you will be absent on a particular due date, you are still responsible for submitting the assignment early or on time. Arrangements for missed tests must be made with the teacher as soon as you return from an unexpected absence. See the teacher immediately if you are having a difficulty; a solution can always be found if we work together.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is stealing another's work and trying to pass it off as your own. Plagiarism occurs when students fail to document their sources and:

-submit assignments which contain groups of words, sentences, or paragraphs             copied word for word from another source;

            -submit assignments written in whole or in part by someone else;

            -submit assignments which contain slight rewording of the original;

            -present ideas of others as their own work.

You must clearly and correctly document all secondary sources. We will review the proper format for parenthetical citations and bibliography in class. Plagiarism is a serious offence and will result in a mark of zero and parent discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK:

All assignments must be completed to the best of your ability and submitted on the assigned due date. A parent signature is required for all tests and major assignments below 60% (Level 2- or below).

In order for work to be accepted, all major assignments must be submitted in

“Good Copy”. “Good Copy” means a copy that is double-spaced, in dark (blue,black) ink, written on one side of the page only. Each assignment must be an obviously good clean copy with cover page and numbered pages. The copy must use the format given in class.

***COMMUNICATION***

***In an attempt to foster positive communication between parent and teacher, all major assignment and test information will be distributed by e-mail to any interested parents. Please indicate below ( or contact*** Rob.D’Alessio@cdsbeo.on.ca ***) if you wish to be included in your son/daughter’s class e-mail list.*** Please sign here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_