



## Board/Authority Approved Course

### Local Politics 11/12

North Okanagan Shuswap	School District 83
Developed By: Graham Gomme	Date Developed: March 2018
School Name: Salmon Arm Secondary School – Sullivan Campus	Principal's Name: Mr. Rob MacAulay
Superintendent Approval Date:	Superintendent Signature:
Board/Authority Approval Date:	Board/Authority Chair Signature:
Course: Politics 11/12	Grade Level of Course: 11/12
Number of Course Credits: 4	Number of Hours of Instruction:

**Board/Authority Prerequisite(s):** Social Studies 10

**Special Training, Facilities, or Equipment Required:** Students will be involved in both mandated classroom lessons as well as the Salmon Arm Youth Council. Students must be available for Youth Council meeting times. The course is offered outside of regular instructional time.

#### **Course Synopsis:**

Politics 11/12 are yearlong intensive courses that involve students preparing for, and participating in, City of Salmon Arm Council Meetings. Students will be expected to work individually, in a small group of Youth Councillors, and in a larger setting involving City Staff, City Councillors and the Mayor of Salmon Arm. Also, students will on occasion be expected to engage with the general citizenry of Salmon Arm at City Council Meetings and other Community events. Politics 11/12 are essentially “hands on” civics courses that involve “real time” engagement.

## **Goals and Rationale:**

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- to engage in local political processes by shadowing a city councilor and attending Council meetings
- to develop a deeper understanding of political processes in municipalities
- to become junior community leaders

### **Rationale:**

The new Ministry course Political Studies 12 has inspired Salmon Arm Secondary's Politics 11/12. In these courses, students will explore all of the "Big Ideas" and skills from the Ministry of Education's curriculum; however, the course is distinct because it will emphasise provincial and "local politics". Students will learn experientially by participating in and being mentored by local politicians. Political Studies content at the National and International levels will be touched on, especially when pertaining to environmental issues.

## **Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives:**

### **Declaration of First Peoples Principles of Learning:**

- Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors – in Politics 11/12, students become much more confident, civically involved, and connected members of our community. They will be included in the decision making process for land use.
- Learning is holistic, reflective, reflexive, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place) – in Politics 11/12, students learn experientially and build relationships with prominent members of our community.
- Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities – in Politics 11/12, students learn directly from members of the Salmon Arm City Council as well as their own teacher during mandated classroom time.
- Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations – by participating in the Salmon Arm Youth Council, students taking Politics 11/12 are privy to information that could be confidential.

### **Declaration of Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives:**

- Connectedness and Relationship – students will be involved in their local community.
- Local Focus – being included in the Youth Council is definitive of place based learning.
- Experiential Learning – the main focus of the course is on learning by doing and reflecting.

**Course Tasks, Activities and Evaluation:**

The following activities and tasks will be required for the completion of the course and included in the evaluation of the students.

Task/Activity	Self-Evaluation	Peer-Evaluation	Teacher-Evaluation
Read background documents regarding Municipal Government and attend meeting with Chief Administrator and Corporate Officer	Journal Reflection		Journal Reflection
Attend monthly City Council Meetings, afternoon and evening sessions	Notes on Meetings/Reflection Journal		Notes on Meetings/Reflection Journal
Present, at least once, to City Council about Youth Perspective	Journal Reflection	Feedback to Presenters on quality of presentation	Presentation and Journal Reflection
Contribute to writing an article to local media		At least two peers edit the article & make comments	Media Article
Contribute to communication with SAS student body about local Politics	Journal Reflection		Communication to Student body and Journal Reflection
Attend one City of Salmon Arm Advisory Committee Meeting	Journal Reflection		Journal Reflection
Participate in a presentation to the North Okanagan Shuswap School Board on developments of the Youth Council	Journal Reflection		Presentation and Journal Reflection
Shadow one Councillor or the Mayor in the Second Semester	Monthly Journal Reflection on Councillor/Mayor		Journal Reflection
Attend Weekly Meetings with the Youth Council and teacher		Discussion/participation	Participation
Attend group dinners once a month to debrief and ask questions, in between the afternoon and evening sessions of the Council Meetings		Discussion/participation	Participation
Complete a project on First Nations/municipality collaboration (such as negotiations and consultation around land use, changes in highway structure, or leases).	Project/Presentation	Peer Evaluation	Rubric Assessment
Complete a project on an international issue that has an impact on municipal politics (such as the fentanyl crisis, legalization of cannabis, homelessness, child poverty).	Project/Presentation	Peer Evaluation	Rubric Assessment

### BIG IDEAS

Understanding how political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen.

Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes.

Decision making in a democratic system of government is shaped by the unequal distribution of political and social power.

Local political agreements require compromises between community partners with a wide range of values and priorities.

### Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data; and communicate findings and decisions</li> <li>• Evaluate how factors, forces, events, or people influence developments, outcomes, or decisions (significance, relevance, and pertinence)</li> <li>• Assess the origin, purpose, quality, and impact of political data (evidence)</li> <li>• Analyze the methods used by the media, governments, and other important groups to influence public perception of an issue or event (political perspectives)</li> <li>• Explain how different ideologies and worldviews shape perspectives on the same political issue and information (political perspectives)</li> <li>• Analyze interrelationships between objectives and intended or unintended results (interrelationships, objectives, and results)</li> <li>• Assess the factors that cause political stability or instability (stability and change)</li> <li>• Recognize the influence of implicit and explicit ethical judgments in political decision making, and formulate positions on issues of ethics in politics (judgments in political ethics)</li> </ul>	<p>Students are expected to know the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• structure and function of municipal politics (councillors, mayor)</li> <li>• the roles played by elected city councillors</li> <li>• ideologies and political systems as they play a role at the local level</li> <li>• election processes and electoral systems</li> <li>• connection between municipalities, regional districts, and First Nations</li> <li>• role of mass media in running a municipality</li> <li>• power relationships between citizens, government, and other bodies in the creation of public policy</li> <li>• issues in local politics in Canada</li> <li>• issues in local politics, such as security, conflict management, development, and sustainability, and community partnerships</li> </ul>

## Course Name: LOCAL POLITICS 12

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