



# Westside Secondary School

Orangeville, Ontario, Canada



519-938-9355

## Issues in Canadian Geography

[www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside)

**Course:** CGC1P

**Teacher:** E. Mills

**Program Leader:** T. Gunn

**Contact Info:** erica.mills@ugdsb.on.ca (preferred for parents) or emills@ugcloud.ca (preferred for students)

### Course Description:

This course focuses on current geographic issues that affect Canadians. Students will draw on their personal and everyday experiences as they explore issues relating to food and water supplies, competing land uses, interactions with the natural environment, and other topics relevant to sustainable living in Canada. They will also develop an awareness that issues that affect their lives in Canada are interconnected with issues in other parts of the world. Throughout the course, students will use the concepts of geographic thinking, geographic inquiry process, and spatial technologies to guide & support their investigations.

### Course Big Ideas (overall learning outcomes for the course):

- Humans strive for sustainability but the potential for success is limited
- Reasons for change and the impacts of those changes are not always understood
- Many decisions have been made that have negatively impacted Canada's sustainability - it is not too late to make improvements in Canada's sustainability
- All Canadians have the responsibility of improving the sustainability of Canada and the world

For Course Overall & Specific Expectations go to: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/canworld910curr2013.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/canworld910curr2013.pdf)

**Instructional Strategies:** Westside teaching staff will use a variety of instructional strategies to help students develop and improve skills in the following areas: character, citizenship, communication, inquiry, critical thinking and problem-solving, collaboration and teamwork, and creativity and imagination.

**Achievement Categories:** Student learning is assessed and evaluated with respect to the following four categories of knowledge and skills.

Knowledge & Understanding: 25%

Communication: 25%

Thinking: 25%

Application: 25%

**Assessment and Evaluation:** Formative assessments are used to improve student learning by providing varied opportunities to demonstrate an understanding of course expectations in preparation for summative assessments. Students are informally assessed on a regular basis. Summative assessments test groups of key expectations. Failure to complete a summative assessment will result in the expectations of the course not being met and the credit not being granted.

**Assessment of Critical Thinking:** The critical thinking processes are identified as: Democratic Discourse, Inquiry, and Problem Solving. Critical thinking will be continually assessed and is worth 15% of the Term Work mark.

**Late Policy:** Students are expected to complete all assigned work and submit it by the established due date. Every attempt will be made to encourage students to complete assigned work on time so the grade represents their actual achievement. A late penalty will be assigned if work is submitted beyond the due date. Extensions will be considered before the due date in case of extenuating circumstances. Please see the Westside Assessment and Evaluation Policy for more information.



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## Units of Study and Corresponding Assessments

Term Work (50 %)		Critical Thinking (20%)	Culminating/Exam (30%)
<b>Unit 1 - Where we live</b>	Location Risk Assessment / Critical Thinking Reflection	❖ Democratic discourse	❖ Culminating Task (15%) (last two weeks)
<b>Unit 2 - Where we work</b>	Mid-Canada Corridor Assessment / Critical Thinking Reflection	❖ Inquiry	❖ Formal Exam (15%) (exam period)
<b>Unit 3 - Where we play</b>	Canadian Tourism Assessment / Critical Thinking Reflection	❖ Problem solving	

**\*There are no extensions or exemptions for final assessments without approval from an administrator\***

## Exam Exemption Opportunity

**For this course, each student has the opportunity to be exempt from the final exam.**

For the student to be exempt, they must:

- Be absent less than 10 classes in total for the semester (excused or unexcused)
- Achieve at least a 70% on each unit summative

When a student does not achieve a 70% or above on a unit summative assessment and still wants the opportunity to be exempt from their final exam, they must:

- Attend 2 remediation sessions at lunch with their teacher, following that particular summative
- Possibly write a make-up summative to demonstrate understanding
- Possibly complete a review package at the end of the semester to demonstrate their understanding for the units in which they did not receive a 70% or above

## Student Expectations and Responsibilities

**Student Conduct:** According to the Westside Secondary School Policy Handbook, the student is expected to attend every day, on time, and ready to work. The student is required to complete all assignments and expected to contribute in class.

**Responsibility:** Student is responsible for her/his own attendance, punctuality to class, assignment completion, preparedness for class, and appropriate classroom behavior.

**Attendance:** School policy will be followed for absences, lates, and skips. Any variation from normal expectations will be discussed with the student and appropriate action will be taken. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on work missed due to absence. Should an absence occur, a phone call (preferred) or an authentic note from the parent is required to excuse the student. It is the student's responsibility to make every effort to arrange appointments in non-school hours.