

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Overview

Guiding Principles

Education for and about First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples:

- nourishes the spirit of learning.
- builds bridges of understanding and respect between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.
- promotes personal and social responsibility.
- is holistic.
- honours diverse ways of knowing.
- is inclusive of the perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.
- connects the learner to family and to local, national and global communities.
- contributes to a good life.

Course Description

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies: A Foundation for Implementation is a full credit course intended for Grade 12 students.

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies: A Foundation for Implementation is designed as a multi-disciplinary course that allows students to explore and develop skills and concepts in the Arts, ELA, Geography, History, Social Studies, and Law.

Democratic Citizenship

From *Grade 11 History of Canada: A Foundation for Implementation*, (unpublished)
Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies: A Foundation for Implementation supports the elements of the core concept of citizenship:

1. acceptance of diversity and pluralism
2. respect for human rights and concern for fellow human being
3. willingness to participate in Canadian civic discourse and democratic processes
4. a commitment to principle and ideals of democracy

Skills for Literacy

From *Grade 11 History of Canada: A Foundation for Implementation*, (unpublished)
Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Students will practise and refine the following skills:

Inquiry

1. formulate and clarify questions to guide inquiry
2. uncover, select and examine information using a variety of sources
3. record and organize information from a range of primary and secondary sources
4. cite a variety of types of sources accurately

Critical Thinking

5. assess the reliability, validity and authenticity of sources of information
6. compare and contrast diverse perspectives and account
7. identify bias and underlying values in sources
8. identify and describe elements of continuity and change

9. use chronology and time sequence in inquiry
10. distinguish cause and effect
11. consider the context and the experiences of people who lived in the past
12. analyze similarities and differences between the past and the present
13. make decisions as an informed literate citizen

Communication

14. select and use information and communications technologies effectively
15. clarify and articulate reasoned opinions and explanations supported by evidence
16. communicate information and ideas in a variety of formats appropriate for audience and purpose

Goals

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies: A Foundation for Implementation offers all Grade12 students, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, an opportunity to:

- enhance their understanding and appreciation of the cultures and traditions, as well as the contemporary realities and aspirations of, First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures in Manitoba, Canada and the world.
 - develop a knowledge of the history of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in order to better understand the present.
 - develop a sense of comfort and confidence in their interactions with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.
 - develop an understanding that First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and cultures are an integral part of Canadian society.
- recognize the ongoing role of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in shaping Canadian history and identity.

Through the exploration of fundamental questions: Who am I? Where have I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?, *Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies* offers **First Nations, Métis and Inuit students** an opportunity:

- to broaden their understanding of the issues facing their communities and cultures.
 - to build upon and extend knowledge of their cultures and traditions.
 - to develop pride in the contributions of their cultures to Canadian society and the world.
 - to build upon and enhance positive self-identity.
- to function effectively as members of their local, national and global communities.

Curriculum Design

Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies: A Foundation for Implementation employs Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions from *Understanding by Design*, an approach to curriculum development by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe.

Enduring Understandings

Description of enduring understandings from *Understanding by Design* by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe

- represent big ideas having enduring value beyond the classroom.
- reside at the heart of the discipline (involve “doing” the subject).
- require un-coverage (of abstract or often misunderstood ideas).

- offer potential for engaging students.

Essential Questions

Description of essential questions from *Understanding by Design* by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe

- are open-ended and resist a simple or single right answer.
- are thought-provoking.
- require students to draw upon content knowledge and personal experience.
- can be revisited throughout the learning experience to engage students in evolving dialogue and debate.
- lead to other essential questions posed by students.

Enduring Understandings in *Current Topics in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Studies*

- Traditionally, First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples share a worldview of harmony and balance with nature, one another, and oneself.
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples represent a diversity of cultures, each expressed in a unique way.
- Understanding of and respect for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples begin with knowledge of their pasts.
- Current issues are really unresolved historical issues.

First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples want to be recognized for their contributions to Canadian society and to share in its successes.

Structure and Time Allotments in *Current Topics in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Studies*

- *Current Topics in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies* is structured around five thematic clusters including:

I	Image and Identity	10%
II	Relations with Government	40%
III	Social Justice Issues	30%
IV	Indigenous Peoples and the World	5%
V	Celebrations of Learning	15%