

**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**GRADE 8**  
**2012-2013**  
**Mrs. Dancey and Ms. Gray**

**Course Overview**

Grade 8 students will examine issues related to contact between societies with differing worldviews. They will explore elements of worldviews and how these views are expressed by people living in different times and in different places. Through this inquiry, students will reflect on their own worldviews and assess the influence that the past has had on the present. Examples will be drawn from Renaissance Europe, Japan, and Spanish and Aztec Societies.

**Rationale**

Students will learn how intercultural contact between societies leads to significant change and alters each society's worldview.

**Topic One (September 1 – December 3)**  
**Renaissance Europe: Origins of Western Worldview**

*Overview*

Through an examination of Renaissance Europe, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how the exchange of ideas and knowledge contributed to shaping the worldview of the Western world.

**Topic Two (December 6 –March 4)**  
**Japan: From Isolation to Adaptation**

*Overview*

Through an examination of Japan, students will demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which beliefs, values and knowledge shape worldviews and contribute to a society's isolation or adaptation.

**Topic Three (March 7 – June 20)**  
**World view in Conflict: The Spanish and the Aztecs**

*Overview*

Through an examination of Spanish and Aztec societies, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how intercultural contact affects the worldviews of societies.

**Local and Current Events**

In order to allow opportunities for students to engage in current affairs, issues and concerns of a local nature, the program of study provides the flexibility to include these topics within the allotted time.

**Evaluation**

Tests      20%      Assignments      80%      Final Exam to be determined

