



Dear Students,

Happy Brexit Day!

There is a lot going on in our world today as we head into what your grandchildren will call “The 20s.” Together, we are going to explore the very nature of history, as well as how your perspective was cultivated. As well, we will look at the various stories of different communities across the globe.

This course will be built around “Big Ideas” (Colonialism, Industrialization, Authority, Private Property Ownership, Wealth, Climatic Change, etc.), as well as events that are currently going on in the world around us. If something comes up, the plan is to do a deep dive and find out why it happened, and what “Big Ideas” it encompasses. Some things that are already on this courses radar:

- The **United States of America is in the midst of the Impeachment Trial of President Donald J. Trump**. His time in office continues to disrupt national and international norms – highlighting a bitter divide in the American Republic itself. Recently, documentarian Michael Moore declared that Donald Trump will be the last president of the United States. How did Trump reach the presidency? What does his election tell us about the world’s most powerful country? What will be the legacy of his time in office? Will he be Impeached? Will he be reelected?
- Today the United Kingdom is leaving the European Union –What impact will the UK “crashing out” of the European Union have on the rest of the world? What will be the impact of “**Brexit**” on the Irish Border? What will Scotland do?
- The world is currently dealing with the **Coronavirus** - a virus that broke out in the Chinese city of Wuhan. How are China and the world dealing with this outbreak? Are there any precedents?
- On December 10th, 2019, Finland’s government was formed by 34-year old Sanna Marin. One of her political party’s ideas is to mandate a **4-day workweek or a six-hour work day**. Finland already allows employees the right to adjust their hours up to three hours earlier or later than what their employer typically requires. What other ideas are being suggested in countries around the world? (Gross National Happiness)

- The Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong has been paralyzed by peaceful protests focussed on what Hong Kongers see as the **erosion of democratic principles** under the rule of China. China has been massing soldiers on its “border” with Hong Kong – what does this mean? Why does Hong Kong (and neighbouring Macau) have a special relationship with the People’s Republic of China? Is the world about to witness another Tiananmen Square Massacre? How is the world preparing for China’s emergence as a global superpower?
- North America and Europe is dealing with a rise in **White Nationalism** – where is this coming from? IT was reported on July 24th that Hamilton had the highest rate of hate crimes in Canada for 2018 (Hamilton Spectator, CBC, Toronto Sun).
- What is the future of democracy as the world increasingly moves to digital platforms, social media and surveillance systems? Do you have **a right to privacy**?
- What has been the impact of **Colonialism** on world history, particularly Indigenous Peoples, these past few centuries? How do western institutions and perspectives influence our world view? With interstellar mineral wealth, and water recently discovered on Mars, are we on the cusp of a new age of Imperialism?
- UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report in October 2018 that the global community has twelve years to stop the worst effects of **climate change** before they become irreversible. Debra Roberts, a co-chair of the working group on impacts, stated “This is the largest clarion bell from the science community and I hope it mobilises people and dents the mood of complacency.” How will the climate change have an economic, social and political impact on the world?
- **What is Waterdown’s place in world history?** What “Big Ideas” are reflected here in our own community?



Our first units:

The Nature of History	The Development of the Western Perspective	Trumpism
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I am very excited that we are going to be experiencing this all together.

It has been said that studying history is like playing a huge game of telephone - sifting through various stories, exaggerations and factual evidence. This course will present you with all kinds of information that affects you as a Canadian.

In looking at Canada and the World we will make use of many different resources: artefacts, video, primary sources, secondary sources, archives, novels, etc. This course has been designed with many elements that you will see during your time in post-secondary education. I want you to enjoy history, and will do my best to present a positive experience. Please feel free to bring to my attention any questions or concerns you might have during the course.

Some resources to keep in mind:

This class has its own website that can be accessed at: www.tidridge.com



The image shows a screenshot of a website with a navigation menu at the top. The menu items are: HOME, FLAMBOROUGH'S LOCAL HISTORY, CHY4U, INDIGENOUS STUDIES, WDHS BOY'S RUGBY CLUB, and CHY4U. A blue callout box points to the second 'CHY4U' tab with the text: "Find the 'CHY4U' tab at the top of the screen and hold the cursor over it". The background of the website is a photograph of a playground with a slide and a child on a swing. The text "Mr. Tidridge's Website" is overlaid on the image. At the bottom left, it says "Welcome to my website!". At the bottom right, there is a black box with the text "FLAMBOROUGH FALCON'S NOVICE B REP HOCKEY".

Click on "CHY4U" to go to the homepage, or click on "Important Handouts & Resources" for all other class resources.



This website is as important as your textbook – check here for assignment checklists, class news, links to sites of interest, and other important information.



This class will also make use of "The Hub" – please make sure you have your account up-to-date.

Wishing you success,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Tidridge". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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