Society and Culture

"No man is an island entire of itself; every man
is a piece of the continent, a part of the main…"

John Donne, Meditation XVII

Our contemporary Westernised Australian culture glorifies and triumphs in expressions of individualism, academic and economic success as well as political "wokeness". In accordance with John Donne's *"No Man is an Island",* this form of cultural expression does not form in a silo, but rather develops as part of the intricate relationship between the individual, their society and culture, and the societies and cultures of others.

The central goal of Society and Culture Stage 6 is the development of social and cultural literacy and a clear understanding of the interaction of persons, societies, cultures, environments and time. In this course students will learn about various aspects of societies and cultures including power, authority, identity, gender, technologies, and globalisation. Society and Culture draws on cross-disciplinary concepts and social research methods from anthropology; communication; cultural and media studies; philosophy; social psychology; and sociology.

Students are provided with essential concepts, skills, competencies and knowledge to encourage a process of independent thinking that can be used to explain patterns of behaviour, solve problems, and engage in and actively contribute to all levels of society. The course draws on cross-disciplinary concepts and social research methods, and students undertake research in an area of particular interest to them. The research findings are presented for external assessment in the Personal Interest Project (PIP).

In an increasingly politically polarised global community, a course which seeks to understand humanity in all its forms and expressions prepares students well for adult life by developing knowledge, skills and other qualities associated with effective citizenship. In allowing students to study in areas of direct relevance to their lives, Society and Culture contributes greatly to the promotion of lifelong learning, providing opportunities for students to acquire a range of skills to support such learsssning

Course Structure

The Preliminary Course:

- The Social and Cultural World: The interactions between persons and groups within societies

- Personal and Social Identity: Socialisation and the development of personal and social identity in a variety of social and cultural settings

- Intercultural Communication: How people in different social, cultural and environmental settings behave, communicate and perceive the world around them

The HSC Course:

Core

- Social and Cultural Continuity and Change: The nature of social and cultural continuity and change as well as application of research methods and social theory to a selected country study
- The Personal Interest Project (PIP): An individual research project

Depth Studies: TWO to be chosen from:

- Popular Culture: The interconnection between popular culture, society and the individual
- Belief Systems and Ideologies: The relationship of belief systems and ideologies to culture and identity
- Social Inclusion and Exclusion: The nature of social inclusion and exclusion as well as implications for individuals and groups in societies and cultures
- Social Conformity and Nonconformity: The nature of conformity and nonconformity and its influences on the formation of peoples' attitudes and behaviours.

For more information on the course, please visit the NESA Website:

https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/hsie/society-culture