

# Myth Busting Science

## Course Outline

### School Contact

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[www.salcomp.ca](http://www.salcomp.ca)

20 Festival Way, Sherwood Park, AB

Phone: (780) 467-8816

### Teacher Contact

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### Program Overview

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Myth Busting Science offers a fun and stimulating environment where students (and their teacher) can investigate everyday and not so everyday topics in science. Myth Busting Science is designed to give students multiple opportunities to experience the nature of science and to use scientific processes to help them critically evaluate some of the many myths that persist today. Myth Busting Science will also give students some familiarity and understanding of non-scientific ways of knowing, and to help them appreciate when and how alternative ways of knowing contribute to our understanding of the world.

This *project-based* course is designed to allow students to investigate myths as a way of understanding the nature and history of science. Students will investigate both historic and current myths to develop their understanding of the nature of science as a way of knowing. They will also apply what they have learned about science in designing and doing their own “Myth Busting” research.

### Tentative Projects

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- Visual Documentary – students will prepare a visual documentary summarizing and explaining the social / cultural significance of a myth of their choice.
- Research Critique – students will choose two samples of “scientific research” and critically analyze the methodologies used.
- Historical Timeline – students will prepare a detailed presentation illustrating the key players and key ideas in scientific thought during a specific period in history.
- Ethics Review – working in small groups, students will act as an ethics committee evaluating and eventually approving / declining proposed research.
- Major Project – students will perform and report upon either a scientific experiment or do an intensive literature review on a myth -busting topic of their choice.

### Assessment

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Formative assessment is the ongoing practice of learning to adjust instruction to focus on student understanding of the course material. Summative assessment is the evidence used by the teacher to determine student achievement in relation to the curriculum outcomes as prescribed by Alberta Education; it is used to determine the student’s grade.

Students will be assessed using a variety of methods including some of the projects described above. Some key aspects to assessment are participation, development of student ideas and critical thinking. This is an inquiry-based course, and as such requires discussion and participation amongst *all* class members. Because of this, some topics may arise that are less familiar and less comfortable for some students than others. Consequently, it is important that students conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner at all times.