

8th Grade Social Studies

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What do we do in this class?

This class is an extension of the world history class that you started in 7th grade. Last year your focus was on the emergence of civilization around the world. This year we will focus on how civilization has progressed from the Middle Ages to the Modern world. In this class we will explore History, Geography, Economics, Politics, and the Human Experience. You will be expected to read, write, and think on a daily basis. You will be asked to wrap your mind around different concepts and to apply your knowledge of the world and the past to events and evidence as it is revealed to you. At the end of this year you will have achieved a much greater understanding of the world around you and your place and role in the world today.

What do I need to bring with me?

As a student you are expected to come to class ready to learn, just as a teacher you expect me to come prepared to teach you. In order to facilitate the learning process you are expected to have the following with you every day:

- A 3-ring binder with dividers
- A supply of college ruled notebook paper
- A pen (no sparkles)
- A pencil
- Silent Reading book on assigned days
- Planner (also used as a bathroom pass)
- Positive attitude
- Assigned homework

How can I get an A in this class?

Attendance: Attendance and active participation are essential to learning. This class revolves around learning activities which take place during class time and that require your attendance and participation. Although you will not be able to avoid absences at all times you should be aware that you need to be in class to learn with us. I urge students to make the most of travel opportunities but to realize that missing school may have a detrimental effect on their grade (make vacation a learning experience to make up for missing school). When you know you will be absent please let me know ahead of time and make arraignments to keep up with the class.

Make-Up Work: It is unavoidable that you will miss some school, and when you do it is **your** responsibility to make sure that you make up all missed work as soon as you return to school.

Be on time: We have a very short amount of time together each day and so we must make the most of every second. When the bell rings you are expected to be in your seat and ready to focus on class. Use your breaks wisely to socialize and run errands.

Do your work: You will have homework on most nights (but not all). Some assignments will be weekly work that you can complete at anytime during the week. The work that we do in this class is designed to increase your knowledge and to help you to form an understanding of the subject that we

are studying. It is vital that **you** do your work, copying someone else's work will not help you on the final assessment. **All forms of cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable!** Homework assignments will be posted on the white board in class and on the web. It is your responsibility to keep track of all of your assignments and due dates. It is also your responsibility to keep your homework in your notebook until the end of a unit at which point it will be collected for credit.

Participate: There are many ways to be an active participant in this class. Your goal should be to share your ideas, ask questions, think seriously, consider multiple perspectives, be organized, and finish your work so that you can be a contributing member of our classroom community.

Be Respectful: You need to respect yourself, your classmates, your teachers, your school, and everyone that is around you on a daily basis. As long as you are respectful of myself and others in this classroom you will be treated with respect and as a young adult. Those that are disrespectful will face consequences for their actions. It is my goal that you never have to be removed from our classroom because of your behavior, however mistakes happen and I will deal with each case on an individual basis.

Do Your Best: If you put forth your best effort and always work hard in this class you will be successful.

Ask for Help: Do not be afraid to ask a classmate, your teacher, your parents, or anyone else for help when you don't know what to do.

Have Fun!

How will I be graded in this class?

Assessments: A large portion of your grade in this class will be based on assessments, these tests, quizzes, projects, presentations, papers, and other assignments designed to show your accumulated knowledge about an area of study.

Daily Work: A portion of your grade will also be made up of your homework, classwork, and other daily activities.

Late Work: I expect all work to be completed on time. Late work will be reduced 10% for the first day late with a maximum late penalty of 50%.

Grading Scale:

A: 100-93%	B: 86.9-83%	C: 76.9-73%	D: 66.9-63%
A-: 92.9-90%	B-: 82.9-80%	C-: 72.9-70%	D-: 62.9-60%
B+: 89.9-87%	C+: 79.9-77%	D+: 69.9-67%	F: 59.9-0%

Extra Credit?

I do not believe that you can “make up” for missed work by doing a different assignment. Students who wish to go **Above and Beyond** the work that we are doing in class may receive additional credit for completing an assignment that expands on the work that we are doing in class. Above and Beyond work will not be counted for students who have missing work.