

Do Not Throw Away! 7th Grade Social Studies

Course Outline 2016-2017

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Welcome to 7th Grade Social Studies

Goals of the class:

Students will use historical, geographical, political, and economic skills in order to understand and analyze trends in the Eastern Hemisphere. History is not just memorizing facts and interpreting data, but also incorporates the skills of detecting bias in sources, of evaluating causes and effects of historical events, and of understanding the major movements in ancient history. We will closely follow the state standards in all areas of social studies.

Students will work on all the following skills: interpreting data, mapping, graphing, categorizing details, organizing information, interpreting political cartoons, identifying perspectives, analyzing primary sources, determining cause and effect, determining fact versus opinion, summarizing, making inferences, and forming generalizations.

Students will use the following strategies: accurate and effective note-taking, critically reading texts and primary sources, critically listening, writing for understanding, using small and whole group discussions, problem solving, making predictions, and supporting ideas with details and facts.

Students will apply 21st Century Skills to course requirements including but not limited to integrated technology, critical thinking, communications, and collaborative assignments.

Colorado State Standards:

History:

1. Seek and evaluate multiple historical sources with different points of view to investigate a historical question and to formulate and defend a thesis with evidence
2. The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes within regions of the Eastern Hemisphere and their relationships with one another

Geography:

1. Use geographic tools to gather data and make geographic inferences and predictions
2. Regions have different issues and perspectives

Economics:

1. Supply and demand influence price and profit in a market economy
2. The distribution of resources influences economic production and individual choices (Economics and PFL)

Civics:

1. Compare how various nations define the rights, responsibilities and roles of citizens
2. The different forms of government and international organizations and their influence in the world community

Course Timeline:

1st Quarter: Geography Skills Unit; Economics Unit; Civics Unit; Early Civilizations

2nd Quarter: Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece and Rome

3rd Quarter: Ancient Africa, India and China

4th Quarter: Muslim Empires and Medieval Europe

Course Requirements and Materials:

These are the required materials for middle school social studies classes:

- 3-Ringed Binder or Pocket folder- for papers and handouts
- Loose-leaf paper or notebook paper for taking notes and completing assignments
- Composition notebooks (2)- one for each semester
- Pens and pencils- enough for the entire school year
- Recommended: Colored Pencils

Students will bring notebooks, binder, pens, pencils, paper, textbook, etc. to every class. Do not come to a high school level class without the proper materials. Students who do not come to class with supplies on a consistent basis will have consequences based on the school behavior matrix.

Under no circumstances will a student throw away any work completed in class. If Mrs. Jacobs finds graded class work or notes in a trash bins, students will lose credit on those assignments.

Students will maintain a three-ringed binder or folder with all handouts and notes. This notebook will not be assessed, but it is strongly recommended that students keep it organized by units of study.

Composition notebooks will be assessed two or three times each quarter. Students are responsible for completing **every** assignment in chronological (time) order. Individual assignments in the notebooks may be assessed or graded as daily homework.

Course Expectations:

Participation policy: Students will be expected to participate in all class activities. Students will earn 5 points for daily participation. Students lose points when they do not follow the participation standards. These students may make up missed participation points by coming in before or after school for ½ hour (per 5 points) to discuss behavior and work on assignments.

Participation grades will be awarded based on the following standards:

- Being in your seat on time and before the bell rings
- Remaining in seat during instructional time
- Working quietly during work sessions
- Paying attention and staying focused to the class
- Participating in meaningful class discussions
- Using good manners, behaviors, and language
- Coming prepared to class
- Respecting others
- Honoring the classroom guidelines regarding food, drink and cell phones.

Sick or Absent: Students who are sick or absent (unexcused or excused) will also need to make up the missed points. They may do so by showing their absence slip to Mrs. Jacobs and discussing and making up what they missed. This must be done before school, after school, or during lunch. If these students do not discuss and/or make up the work, they will earn 0 participation points for the day they were absent.

Field Trips of School-Related Absences: Students who are on a class field trip are excused from participation points that day. Likewise, students who are on a school-sponsored events (not a spectator) for that function are excused from participation for that day. **These students are still responsible for all work.**

Pre-Arranged Absences (appointments, etc.) Students who know they are going to miss school for an unavoidable appointment (like doctor's or dentist's appointments) should complete a pre-arranged absence form from the office, fill it in and get makeup work (please do not interrupt class to discuss your absence—come in before school, after school, or during lunch). According to the school policy, "a student who knows in advance of an absence should obtain a Pre-arranged Absence form from the school office." Students, upon return to school, should show the teacher the excused absence slip from the office. These students will not lose participation points.

Behavior Policy and Procedures: Students are expected to participate fully in class at all times. Students who do not participate not only hurt themselves, but other students as well. There are some very specific school-wide consequences that will be followed. Many of these behavior expectations involve keeping themselves and others safe and being respectful (see Behavior Matrix). Examples of showing respect include keeping personal belongings to self and choosing words that are not offensive. Please refrain from inside jokes and innuendos. Those who make the choice to not pay attention, to be disrespectful to others, or to not be prepared for class will face the following consequences based on their actions for Classroom-managed behavior (see Consequence Flow Chart).

First offense- Verbal or written warning and conference with teacher for solutions

Second offense- Verbal or written warning, Parent, student, and teacher conference

Third offense- Office referral

For Administration-managed behaviors, students will be officially referred without or without a warning, verbal or otherwise (see Consequence Flow Chart).

Homework/Assignment policy: Class time should be used for instruction and help sessions, not to provide students with lab time to complete homework. Furthermore, the student's first obligation is to his or her school work, not to extra-curricular activities. Students should plan to have homework **frequently**. The goal of homework is not to keep students busy with busywork, but to have students practice skills learned in class or to finish class work. There is not enough class time for all assignments to be completed within that class hour. Students who consistently fail to complete homework will be required to spend time in Lunch and Learn or Study Zone in order to complete the work (see Common Expectations).

Assignment Due Dates: Students are required to turn in assignments on the due date when they enter the classroom. While students are working on their "bell ringers," homework should be placed in the in-box. If homework is not done, students need to place a filled-in "**pink slip**" on top of that work. If assignments are turned in later in the same class time, the assignment will be regarded as late. Some assignments, especially larger projects and computer work will be due by the end of the school day. These special assignments will have clear deadlines.

Academic planners will be required of all 7th grade students for the first portion of the school year. These planners will go home every day.

Incomplete homework will result in the following requirements:

1. Lunch and Learn
 - Same day Lunch and Learn for morning infractions
 - Next day Lunch and Learn for afternoon infractions (Students may choose to stay that day for Study Zone and replace the Lunch and Learn requirement for the following day).
2. Study Zone after school (Please arrange for transportation with parents)
 - Students will need to stay after school with Mrs. Jacobs or with the Study Zone supervisor in order to complete the assignment.
 - Students will stay as many days after school as needed in order to complete the assignment.
3. After school Detention
 - Students who choose not to follow the Lunch and Learn and/or the Study Zone requirements will earn a detention. That detention and subsequent consequences will be followed according to the Consequence Flowchart (see Student Handbook).

Absence/ Make-up Work Policy: Students who are absent from school due to sickness or family emergency will be allowed an additional day to make-up assignments. Exceptions to this rule: If a student knew about an assignment, test or project before he or she was absent, then he or she will not receive additional time to complete that assignment.

Furthermore, students who know they are going to be absent due to sporting events, class trips, or other school functions, must turn in assignments **before** they leave for the event, or turn in the assignment immediately after they return (with prior teacher approval). These students are not permitted additional time to complete assignments, and these students should have completed the Pre-Arranged Absence form from the office.

Grading Policy and Procedures: Students may expect a large variety of projects, assignments and assessments that are worth a variable number of points dependent on the assignment. Students earn points for a letter grade based on the school grading scale. Mrs. Jacobs will also be implementing a Standards-Based assessment component to her classes. Please see additional papers regarding Standards-Based grading.

Students in 7th grade will receive a 10% reduction in their final grade on a given assignment for each day (24 hours) that the assignment is turned in late. Students are expected to turn in all work whether they receive credit or not.

Cheating Policy: Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated at any time and will result in a zero on that assignment. Cheating is defined as the sharing or receiving information that was not the work of that individual. Plagiarism is copying or re-wording information that is not one's own work. This may be as little as a few words or entire papers. Students should use extreme care to cite sources when writing.

Extra Credit Policy: Very rarely will extra credit be offered. Students are expected to do all required class work at a satisfactory level; therefore, extra credit is not applicable. On occasion all students may be offered an assignment to serve as extra credit, but in **no circumstances will extra credit be offered on an individual basis**. Individuals working below a desired grade are encouraged to work harder on the subsequent assignments, seek out a peer tutor, or come in for extra help from the teacher.

Cell Phone Policy: No cell phones will be permitted in the classroom. Students will place cell phones into the bin by the door with the cell phone turned off. Any cell phones seen, heard, read or touched during class will result in immediate confiscation. A first offense will result in the cell phone being turned into the office. Additional offenses will result in further consequences. Other electronic devices may be permitted with prior approval. These devices are not to be used for games. Students who refuse to turn in device may have further consequences based on the school behavior matrix.

Classroom Food/Drink Etiquette: Students will not be permitted any food in the classroom (unless there is prior approval for a whole-class treat). Do not bring breakfast or lunch to class. Water will be allowed in clear, plastic bottles with lids. Absolutely **no** sports drinks, soda pop, lemonade, energy drinks, tea, coffee or any other drink (except water) will be permitted in the room. Likewise, no open containers or aluminum cans will be permitted in the classroom. Chewing gum should be kept in the mouth and under no circumstances should anyone see or hear the gum. Students who disregard these rules will be penalized on their participation grade. If problems continue to persist, the behavior matrix will be followed.

Restroom and Hallway Privileges: Passes to the restroom will only be given in cases of dire emergency. The time between classes should be used for restroom needs. If you think you need more time during the passing period, please notify me for permission to use the restroom prior to the bell ringing. Students will only be allowed in the hallway during class time for emergencies. Forgetting to bring homework or forgetting class supplies is not an emergency. Under no circumstances may students interrupt another teacher's class. Permission to leave the room may be granted on an individual-needs basis.

Moments of Mercy: Students will receive four (4) moments of mercy per quarter. M&Ms can be used for any of the following:

- Late work: If you know you will need more time to complete an assignment than what is allotted by the deadline you may use an M&M to extend the deadline. One M&M is good for a one day deadline extension. You may use as many M&Ms as you have to extend a deadline. This gives you extra time without making the assignment late. Your M&Ms with your name on them should be stapled to the assignment.
- Tardies: An M&M can be used to negate you being tardy to class. To do this you should write your name on one of your M&M's and hand it to one of us immediately upon entering the classroom.
- Leaving the classroom: If you need to leave the classroom after class has started to either use the bathroom, get a drink, or get something from your locker you must use an M&M with your name. Without an M&M you cannot leave the classroom. You are expected to return to class promptly.

- When you run out of M&Ms you will not receive any more until the beginning of next quarter. Therefore, use them wisely and in situations which will best benefit you.

At the end of any quarter if you have any M&Ms left you can convert them to percentage points. Up to four M&M's can be converted each quarter. Each M&M is worth a half of one percent. So if you have four M&Ms left you can add two percentage points to your grade. For example your grade could go from an 88% (B+) to a 90% (A-).

Class Schedule: This schedule may be revised at any time as deemed appropriate by the teacher.

	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Activity 1	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer	Bell Ringer
Activity 2	Cognitive Map Skills- Pre-Assessment	Cognitive Map Skills	Cognitive Map Skills	Cognitive Map Skills	Cognitive Map Skills- Post Assessment
Activity 3	Lesson of the Day	Lesson of the Day	Lesson of the Day	Lesson of the Day	Cultural Literacy and Current Events

Description of Class Activities

Bell Ringers: The purpose of bell ringers is to provide students with a time in class to work on specific social studies skills that need to be taught implicitly and directly. The skills and activities will vary from day to day and week to week. Some of the bell ringers will directly link to the unit being taught while other bell ringers will be skills that can be taught in isolation. All bell ringers need to be labeled with **date** and **title** and need to be in the **composition notebook in chronological order**. When students are absent from class, they must make up the work.

Cognitive Map Skills: Students will memorize key parts of maps including physical and political features like major rivers, mountains, and countries. The goal is to every student able to find and recall these features and make them part of their cognitive functioning. Just like in math, with automaticity in geographic literacy, students will be able to free up cognitive processing capacity in order to access higher-order thinking skills. Especially in our increasingly global society, students need to automatically recognize location names and be able to know where that place is. There will be a cognitive map test each week!

Lesson of the Day: Students will engage in varied lessons and activities in order to learn the content and apply the skills needed to be taught. Students are responsible for anything they miss during this time. Please check with classmates and the teacher for any missed lessons.

Cultural Literacy and Current Events: Students will complete a variety of activities and writing based on American culture and global current events.

Note to Parents/Guardians:

Please realize that the above document can be modified as necessary during the course of the year. I will do my best to make sure that you are aware of any significant changes to my classroom policies and procedures.

If your child has a problem in my class, please have him or her come **talk to me directly first**. If the situation is not resolved, then please visit me or call me. I will gladly work through any situation to see if we can resolve small issues before they become a big problem. Communication is a two-way street, and I will do my best as a professional to let you know when there is an issue at school that needs to be discussed.

I look forward to teaching your son or daughter.

Thanks,
Mrs. Jacobs

Please tear off and return to teacher.

Student Name _____ Class _____

I have read the policies and expectations for Mrs. Jacobs's class and understand them. If I have questions regarding a classroom policy or procedure, I will speak to Mrs. Jacobs.

Student signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Date