

Middle School Social Studies Syllabus

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Teacher Information:

Teacher: Mr. Rob Rodriguez

Room: 8C

Email: rrodriguez@magdalenwichita.com

Phone: 316-634-1572

Website: magdalenwichita.com/teachers/ms/msss

Instagram: @schhistoryool

Course Overview:

Social studies is the **nexus of all learning**. This course explores historical events and challenges students to form **evidence-based opinions** through critical analysis and thoughtful discussion. We will journey through time and across the globe, developing an understanding of the forces that have shaped our world and our communities.

Curriculum

6th Grade: Ancient Civilizations

- Mesopotamia
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome

Supplemental Reading: "A Little History of the World" by E.H. Gombrich

7th Grade:

- **Semester 1:** Kansas History
- **Semester 2:** World Geography

8th Grade: American History

- Exploration & Colonization
- The American Revolution
- The Civil War
- Reconstruction & Beyond

Supplemental Reading: "Don't Know Much About American History" by Kenneth C. Davis

Core Skills Development

Throughout the year, students will cultivate essential skills, including:

- **Analyzing Sources:** Evaluating the reliability and bias of historical documents and artifacts.
- **Explaining Cause and Effect:** Identifying the relationships between events and their consequences.
- **Interpreting Maps and Charts:** Understanding spatial relationships and data visualization.
- **Conducting Research:** Gathering and synthesizing information from various sources.
- **Communicating Clearly:** Expressing ideas effectively through written and oral presentations.
- **Participating Respectfully:** Engaging in thoughtful discussions and respecting diverse perspectives.

Required Materials

Students are expected to come to class prepared with the following materials:

- **Textbook** (provided)
- **3-Subject RED Notebook** (clearly labeled)
- **Writing Utensils** (pens, pencils)
- **Colored Pencils, Markers, or Highlighters**
- **Accordion Folder**
- **Charged Chromebook** (as needed)
- **Wired Headphones** (for computer-based activities)
- **Project Materials** (as needed for specific assignments)

Classroom Expectations

To foster a productive and positive learning environment, all students are expected to:

- **Be Respectful:** Treat classmates, teachers, and school property with consideration.
- **Be Prepared:** Arrive on time with all necessary materials.
- **Be Engaged:** Participate actively in class discussions and activities.
- **Practice Academic Integrity:** All submitted work must be your own.
- **Use Technology Responsibly:** Follow school guidelines for Chromebook and device usage.

Grading Scale & Assessment

Grades will be determined based on the following scale:

- **A:** 90-100%
- **B:** 80-89%
- **C:** 70-79%
- **D:** 60-69%
- **F:** Below 60%

Assessments will include both formative and summative measures:

- **Formative Assessments:** Entrance/Exit Tickets, Quizzes, Class Discussions, Checks for Understanding
- **Summative Assessments:** Unit Tests, Essays, Projects, Presentations

Absences & Late Work Policy

Missed Work: Please check Google Classroom regularly for missed assignments and notes. For excused absences, students will be granted one school day to make up work for each day absent.

Late Work:

- Work submitted the **same day** it is due by 3:30 PM will receive a maximum of **90%**.
- Work submitted **1-5 days** late will receive a maximum of **64%**.
- Work submitted **after 5 days** late will earn a **zero**.
- **6th Grade Grace Period:** Students in 6th grade will have a grace period for late work until Labor Day.

Keys to Success

To excel in social studies, remember to:

- **Stay Organized:** Keep your notes and assignments tidy.
- **Review Regularly:** Don't wait until the last minute to study.
- **Ask Questions:** If you are unsure about something, please ask!
- **Engage and Revise:** Participate actively and be willing to refine your understanding.

Student & Parent/Guardian Agreement

The undersigned have read and understand the expectations, policies, and curriculum outlined in this syllabus. We agree to work together to ensure a successful and productive school year.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____