

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT CLASSROOM CONTRACT 2011-2012

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All students must complete 4 years of Social Studies

WHAT WILL MY SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES BE COVERING?

During the school year students in social studies classes will analyze and evaluate many aspects of history such as politics, institutions, society, culture, and the economy. We use a variety of modes from artifacts and primary source documents to textbooks and critical commentaries to examine history from more than one perspective. History is continuing to evolve with each passing day—it is not some static bunch of facts lying dead in a textbook. We will examine the building blocks of history ourselves and what historians have to say about them. We will also try to make our own interpretations of history as we see it from our unique historical perspective. The memorization of facts and dates is an important component as well as critical understanding of history as it unfolded and continues to unfold.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE OFFERING

Global I-II will focus on the Neolithic Revolution—the time when humans settled down to build agriculturally-based towns and cities— through the Age of Exploration—when Europeans set out to find new trade routes, inadvertently transforming the entire world as they did so.

Global III-IV will cover world history from the Scientific Revolution through to the second war in Iraq. Topics covered will include the French Revolution, the rise of nation-states in Europe, World War I and II and the Cold War. We will cover contemporary phenomena such as the Green Revolution, pollution, and globalization.

US I & II will focus on the history of the United States from early colonization to the present day. We will emphasize important themes in US history such as continuity and change, and the building of a particular American culture. The class will also focus on US government and the judicial system.

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT (Fall semester) is a senior level course in which students analyze the theories and ideas of how political systems came into being, in particular US government and democracy. Students will draw comparisons between the US government and other government systems.

ECONOMICS (Spring semester) is a senior-level course which analyzes different economic systems and examines how societies allocate funds. Students will investigate financial strategies which they will utilize in their personal lives.

Advanced Placement United States History is a rigorous college-level course that covers in depth the period from before the settlement of Jamestown to the post-Cold-War period. Students engage in exciting historical simulations and elaborate projects as well as lively debates and discussions.

TEXT RESOURCES

- Global: McDougal Littell: *World History: Patterns of Interaction* Pearson/Prentice Hall: *A Brief Review for New York: Global History and Geography*
- US History: McDougal Littell: *The Americans*
- Pearson/Prentice Hall: *A Brief Review in: United States History and Government*
- Participation in Government: Wolfson. *Civics for Today: Participation and Citizenship*
- Economics: Gerson/Antell. *Economics for Everybody*

GRADING

CLASSWORK:

20% of Grade

- All classwork, written or oral, completed in groups or individually is graded and contributes to the class participation grade.
- Written and oral classwork must be neat, thorough, include a proper FSSA heading and demonstrate significant effort in order to receive a satisfactory grade.
- Student must be prepared for class in terms of both subject and materials. (See supplies requirement).
- Punctuality and attendance have a significant impact on a student's classwork and grade.
- Classroom behavior—active participation, personal conduct, and contribution to the classroom environment also influence this grade.

EXAMS/ESSAYS/RESEARCH PAPERS/PROJECTS/QUIZZES:

60% of Grade

- Classroom tests are based upon the assigned homework, class discussion, and board notes, and should be seen as opportunities to reinforce and evaluate learning.
- There will be a final and a midterm exam as well as unit tests and quizzes
- If you are absent for an exam, you **must** submit a note from your parent/guardian the day that you return from your absence. **The test may not be taken until a note is submitted.**
- Students will be required to write research papers, projects, and essays during the semester and sometimes to present them to the class.

HOMEWORK:

20% of Grade

- Homework must be clear and neat in the *required format* (Student name, Title of Assignment, Date, Class Period, Teacher's and School's Name) and it must be written on 8 1/2" x 11" loose-leaf paper.
- Homework is assigned on a daily basis and must be submitted on the **date that it is due**.
- **Late homework will not be accepted** except in the case of illness or extenuating circumstance, in which case a note must be provided. Students will receive a one-day extension with an absence note if the homework was assigned during the student's absence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ PLAGIARISM

Make sure you read the following and discuss the import of its contents: In signing the student contract you are acknowledging the following:

I understand that plagiarism is the act of submitting a paper that, in part or in whole, includes the work or another person— work that I did not create. This includes, but is not limited to, copying other words, images, sound bites, art work, ideas, phrases or paragraphs from another source/person without indicating precisely that these words or ideas come from a source other than myself. I understand the seriousness of this offense and in signing below I am stating that I will not plagiarize from other people or sources and will not allow others to plagiarize from my academic efforts. I understand that if I do submit plagiarized work, I will be held responsible and comply with disciplinary action set forth by the school administration and the Department of Education's discipline and intervention regulations.

PREPAREDNESS FOR CLASS

Parents: You can greatly influence your child's ability to succeed. Classroom misbehavior will not be tolerated, as it affects both the individual student's performance and the classroom environment, and will be treated accordingly.

Students: Students are required to be prepared for class every day. As students are frequently absent from class due to performances and studio trips, it is essential for students to get the notes missed from a fellow student and to include it in the notebook. *Make sure you have the contact information for at least two other students in each of his/her class.*

The following supplies are highly recommended and should be brought to class every day:

Supplies for Class

- 8 1/2" x 11" three-ring binder style notebook with extra loose-leaf paper
- FSSA's daily planner (distributed in school)
- Plastic pockets for handouts
- Black or blue ink (only) pens and pencils
- Mini-stapler
- Three hole punch
- 3 x 5 Index cards attached with rubber band or in zip lock bag
- Marble composition notebook for some teachers.
- Regents Review Book
- Highlighter

ABSENCES

- Three (3) latenesses result in a scheduled detention.
- *Regardless of reason for absence: sickness, family emergency, blackout, school trip, or performance, students are required to make up all work*
- An unexcused absence (cut) will result in a “0” for that day—class work as well as any exam or quiz scheduled for that day.
- A lateness of 20 minutes or more with-in any classroom period constitutes a cut.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

These policies exist to maximize learning and community spirit. Failure to follow them may result in disciplinary action and/or lower grades. They include *but are not limited to* the following guidelines:

1. Arrive on time and be ready to work when the bell rings.
2. Act respectfully to the teacher and to fellow students at all times.
3. Unless speaking quietly to your classmates in pairs or groups, raise your hand to speak. Do not call out.
4. Pay attention and follow directions quickly and quietly.
5. Take care of the classroom environment—clean and straighten up after all activities.
6. Obey all school rules and follow your teacher’s instructions, in particular:
7. No eating or drinking (except bottled water) is permitted in the classroom.
8. Headwear (except religious) is prohibited. Clothing must be appropriate to school and follow expectations outlined in the annual school bulletin.
9. All electronic devices are not to be used or displayed in the classroom. *They will be confiscated as per Department of Education regulations.*

ONLINE RESOURCES

The following websites offer extensive hands-on practice of lessons learned in class.

The Social Studies Help Center: Information on varied topics

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History: Plethora of primary and secondary source material

Library of Congress: African American History Also contains link to other LC sites

Dogpile Websearch Homepage Meta search engine for research papers

Guerre de 1914-1918 Great site for pictures (and text) on WWI--for use on WWI research paper

Classzone: The Americans Textbook Website Contains support aids and additional material for study and research

Classzone: World History Textbook Website Contains support aids and additional material for study and research

The Library of Congress Primary Source Collections Great for research papers

It's No Laughing matter--Analyzing Political Cartoons Another site of the LC Learning Page

World History Sources: Analyzing Documents An excellent site that teaches how to analyze various different types of documents

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Excellent copies of art to use in research projects

The History Carper Lots of useful information facts for both Global and US

Spartacus Educational Excellent website for primary and secondary sources

All on-line resources available at: <http://fssa.wikispaces.com>

**You will find grades and assignments posted on PupilPath.com.
You may contact your teacher via email or via PupilPath.com.**

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