

Mr. Potts' 7th Grade Social Studies Syllabus

Welcome to the 2018 - 2019 school year and the Home of the Spartans!

Teacher: Mr. Bruce Potts

Room: 205

Content Subject: Social Studies

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Teacher Page: <http://www.husd.org/Domain/1034>

School Hours: 8:55AM – 3:50PM

Social Studies Course Description:

This is an American History Course, which traces the events and their effects on the United States and the world from the beginning of the U.S. Civil War to the beginning of World War II. This standards-based course examines the relationship of historical events and people, significant themes, ideas and beliefs. This course incorporates the five strands of Social Studies according to the Arizona State Standards and Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards.

Course Goals:

The goal of the course is to build content knowledge while enhancing reading and writing skills. Students will analyze documents and conduct expository writing tasks based on the Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards and Arizona's College and Career Readiness Standards (AZCCRS).

Grading:

Student grades will be based on 80% assessments and 20% class work and at home practice assignments. The 80% assessments include: 60% Social Studies Assessments, 10% HUSD Semester DBQ Final Assessment and 10% HUSD Semester Multiple-Choice Final Assessment.

Class work and practice assignments may include but is not limited to bell work, class discussion, formative assessments, note taking, reading assignments, preparation, prewriting, etc. There is no busy work in Social Studies. Everything we do will be done to prepare for the future, whether it is an upcoming lesson, quiz, assessment, final exam or a necessary skill for high school and beyond.

Online Grade Book:

The Higley Unified School District uses an online grading system. Parents and students can gain 24-hour access to grades using ParentVue and StudentVue. If you are new to the Higley Unified School District you will need to contact the front office to gain access to the online grading system. Additionally, Smartphone users can download the ParentVue app in order to monitor student grades. In monitoring student grades you may see comment codes and/or comments in addition to the grade for each assessment, assignment or project.

Online Grade Book Comment Codes:

Missing – The assignment/assessment is missing. Students will have until the conclusion of the unit of study or two weeks after the original due date to complete the “missing” assignment/assessment for full credit consideration.

Incomplete – The assignment/assessment was not fully completed as per the directions.

Late – The assignment was turned in late. There is no penalty for late work; this code is for documentation purposes.

50% Floor:

Sossaman Middle School utilizes a modified 50% minimum grading policy. Any assignment submitted by a student that is accepted by a teacher will receive a minimum grade of a 50%. A teacher has the discretion to accept or to not accept assignments from students that do not meet minimum standards of quality academic workmanship and completion. On all assessments given by a teacher, there is no minimum grading policy. Students will receive the score they earned on the assessment. Any assignment that has not been submitted or that remains incomplete at the end of the unit of study or two weeks after the original due date will be entered as or remain as a "0" in the grade book.

Grading Scale:

90% -100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
60% - 69% = D
59% or below = F

Unit Assessments:

Each Social Studies unit will conclude with a unit assessment, which is designed to assess student learning based on the HUSD 7th Grade Social Studies Standards. Prior to each unit assessment a unit study guide will be provided to students that will guide and assist students to prepare for each unit assessment. Students will be required to fully complete a study guide prior to taking a unit assessment. Students that do not to fully complete a study guide will not be permitted to complete the assessment, will receive a ZERO (0) and will have to schedule a time before or after school with the teacher to complete the assessment.

Document Based Question (DBQ) Grading Scale:

DBQ's will be graded on a 4-point proficiency scale as follows:

4 = 100%
3.5 = 95%
3 = 90%
2.5 = 85%
2 = 80%
1.5 = 70%
1 = 60%

Assessment Retakes:

Sossaman Middle School encourages students to retake assessments on which they performed below their desired level of mastery. In order to be eligible to schedule a retake time with a teacher a student must complete the following tasks:

1. Ensure all assignments for the unit of study are turned in.
2. Meet with the teacher and utilize the SMS re-do/retake contract to establish criteria to complete the re-do/retake form and associated tasks.

A student's opportunity to retake an assessment is always subject to teacher discretion.

Academic Dishonesty:

Per the code of conduct academic dishonesty is defined as: intentionally using information from or property of another without permission to obtain an unfair advantage or receive a grade or score that was not legitimately earned. This includes cheating and plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade and parent contact. Further incidents will be addressed per the code of conduct.

Classroom Expectations and Management Plan:

All HUSD policies outlined in the Code of Conduct will be honored and enforced. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to review the conduct thoroughly and together. The Code of Conduct can be accessed at <http://www.husd.org/cms/lib08/AZ01001450/Centricity/Domain/740/CodeofConduct.pdf>. Students are also expected to meet the class “Standard” each day. A failure to meet these expectations and standards will result in the following classroom management plan procedures. Students that do not have their cell phone stored in their backpack will have the phone confiscated until the end of the school day.

1st Violation: Verbal Warning

2nd Violation: Parent Contact

3rd Violation: Parent Conference with Student

4th Violation: Administrative Referral

The Standard:

1. Enter the Room Quietly & Ready to Learn
2. Be Responsible, Respectful and Accountable
3. Control Your Effort and Attitude
4. NO Food, Drinks or Gum
5. Cell Phones MUST be in your Backpack

NOTE: Smart Watches will be confiscated if they disrupt the learning environment.

Violation Form:

Students that violate a HUSD Code of Conduct, a Sossaman Middle School policy, or a classroom Standard will be asked to document the violation using the Social Studies Violation Form.

After School Detention (ASD):

Sossaman Middle School staff and administration believe in the value and importance of teaching our students responsibility and accountability. As a result, students may be assigned After School Detention (ASD). ASD will be held three days a week. Students who are assigned ASD will serve on the next scheduled ASD day. Students will not serve on the day it is assigned in order to allow parents the opportunity to make arrangements to pick up their child. District transportation cannot be provided for ASD. Students will need to be picked up no later than 4:30PM. ASD may be assigned by a teacher for the following reasons:

1. Tardy to Class.
2. Unprepared for Class (missing materials, No iPad, uncharged iPad, etc...).
3. Failure to submit an assignment by the assigned due date.

The ASD program is not primarily meant to address behavior issues in the classroom. However, a teacher may utilize lunch detention, after school detention and hold student/parent conferences in order to address inappropriate behaviors in the classroom. These consequences are not related to the ASD program and will be accompanied by communication from the classroom teacher.

Absences:

Student absences, both planned and unplanned may occur throughout the school year. In the event of an absence, students will be given the same number of days he/she missed in order to make up any missed assignments. It is the student's responsibility to check StudentVue, Edmodo and the Teacher Page to inquire about any missed content, assignments, assessments, etc. due to an absence before school, after school, during B lunch, or via email or Edmodo.

Materials:

The following materials will be used consistently in Social Studies:

- Pencil
- 1-Subject Spiral Notebook (minimum 100 pages – 8 ½ x 11)
- Highlighters (4)
- Charged iPad
- 3x5 Note Cards
- College Ruled Notebook Paper

Student iPads:

iPads are used regularly in Social Studies. As a result, it is important that students to have a charged iPad in class daily. Students will not be permitted to charge an iPad during class when we are using the iPad for academic use. In the case of a student not having an iPad available for use for an assignment/activity, the student will be allowed to participate in the activity and will be provided a hard copy of the assignment. The student will complete a violation form and may be assigned an additional assignment as a consequence for not being prepared for class.

If a student does not have an iPad/charged iPad for use to complete an assessment, the student will not be permitted to complete the assessment. The Student will receive a ZERO and will have to schedule a time before or after school with the teacher to complete the assessment.

Students will not be permitted to use the iPad for non-academic use during the class hour. A student that violates this policy will have the iPad confiscated.

Students that do not have an iPad, have an uncharged iPad or have their iPad confiscated during the class hour will be required to document the issue using the iPad Violation Form. Excessive violations will result in parent contact and/or an administrative referral.

Restroom Pass/Drink Pass:

Students have a 3-minute passing period between each class and a 35-minute lunch period in order to use the restroom, get a drink and fill a water bottle. Students will not receive permission to use the restroom, get a drink or fill up a water bottle during instructional time or during the first and last 15 minutes of the class hour. Students will be provided a Semester 1 and a Semester 2 "Restroom/Drink Pass" that will allow students to use the restroom or get a drink 5 times each semester.

Communication:

In order to communicate with parents and students, the use of email and Edmodo. Students will create an Edmodo and provided with a group code once iPads are distributed.

**Parents and students please read the 7th grade Social Studies syllabus on my
Teacher Page and complete this page and return it by Friday, July 27th**

We have reviewed and discussed the information provided in the 2018-2019 7th grade Social Studies syllabus.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Class Hour: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Best Time to Call: _____

Email Address: _____

Thank you.

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