



World History & Geography:
Ancient Civilizations
Mr. Steven Frank
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6th Grade Social Studies Syllabus

Brief Description of the Course:

Students in the sixth grade expand their understanding of history by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western ancient civilizations. Geography is of special significance in the development of the human story. Continued emphasis is placed on the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of people, their role in developing social, economic, and political structures, as well as in establishing and spreading ideas that helped transform the world forever. Students develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why civilizations developed where and when they did, why they became dominant, and why they declined. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link, despite time, between the contemporary and ancient worlds.

Course Goals:

Human beings are subjective. Therefore, most of what we know of history is taken from the viewpoint of the “victors.” What about the victims? What about the indigenous peoples? What about women? Aside from a few powerful women, females rarely receive credit from this period of history. History has a way of being slanted. Biases are inevitable, so we must do our best to seek other stories worth telling. We must find other points of view. This class will seek out and study primary documents in a quest to analyze different perspectives.

This is a well-rounded program that hopes to captivate, entertain, and stimulate, while developing an understanding of conceptual and factual historical knowledge. In addition, we will also focus on developing reading comprehension skills with expository text, formal reasoning, note-taking, research, collaborative work, oral presentations, technology-based projects, highlighting, outlining, concept mapping (graphic organizers), current events, debates, and simulations.

There are high expectations for every student in this class. Organization is a priority and a skill that we will develop and nurture within the scope of learning history.

Course Text:

History Alive!: The Ancient World. Teachers' Curriculum Institute, Palo Alto, CA: 2011.

Online Textbook:

Your student can sign in to his/her subscription by going to https://student.teachtci.com/student/sign_in and entering his/her WES computer login and password.

Teacher Email	sfrank@woodsideschool.us
Username	Your WES Computer Username
Password (case sensitive)	Your WES Computer Password

Homework and Grading Policy:

All grading, written work, testing, and homework standards that are used in this class reflect the adopted Academic Standards for Woodside School.

Grading Standards

Grade	Percent	Grade Point
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	59 and Below	0

Incompletes (INC): Students who have a passing grade in class but have not completed all the required work by report card time may receive an "INC" in place of a letter grade. That student will then have two weeks to complete the required work to receive a grade. If the work is not completed in that period of time, the student's grade will be based on an average of grades recorded plus a zero for each missing assignment.

Test Corrections: Students may do test corrections if they score below a 70%. The directions for how to do test corrections are on my website. By completing test corrections properly, your child may earn up to a 70% score.

Grading: Grades are not weighted in my class. Tests and large projects are usually worth 100 points. Smaller projects are usually worth 50 points. Class work, homework assignments, and quizzes are usually worth 25 points.

Excused Absences: Students will be given the opportunity to make up missed assignments because of an excused absence. Excused absences include medical appointments and sickness. Students will be given one additional day for each excused absence to make up assignments for no loss of credit.

Unexcused Absences: Students who miss school due to suspension, truancy, travel and/or unexcused absences (sports and shadowing other schools) must turn in their missed work upon return. If a test happens to fall on the day the student returns to class, he or she will be required to take the test that day.

Late Work: All late homework, projects, and essays will be subject to a deduction of up to 10%. Missed tests will need to be completed within one week of the original test date.

Homework: Homework will be purposeful and designed to reinforce the concepts we have covered in class. Homework will not exceed 20 minutes a night.

Projects: We will complete several small projects, as well as a few large projects, throughout the year. Long-term projects will be assigned at least three weeks before the due date. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the long-term project before the due date if he or she will not be at school the day the project is due.

Organization: Students should keep all assignments in their social studies folders and bring them to class each day. Students should not throw anything away unless instructed by the teacher. Students should keep their Table of Contents up to date for each unit of study. We will organize our unit binders after the end of each unit of study. Students will receive a homework grade for their unit binder organization. All student unit binders will remain in the classroom at all times.

Acceptability of Written Work: All work must be neatly done in legible handwriting or type written. I will often require that writing be typed, so the use of a computer is strongly suggested. Unless otherwise specified, I prefer students' work to be submitted in hard copy form, not electronically.

All student-prepared work is to have the following heading:

<p>Student Name Date Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Title of Assignment</i></p>

Missing part of the heading on a typed assignment may result in a 5% deduction.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know your child and sharing my love of history with them!

My Teaching Style:

My teaching philosophy is simple. Kids should have fun while learning. I have very high expectations for all students, and I believe firmly that every child can reach beyond their goals. In addition to learning about ancient civilizations, my focus is to help broaden each student's general level of overall educational skills. This includes a deep understanding of research (e.g., primary documents, citations, etc.), writing, speaking, listening, and organization. In other words, the skills students will rely on for future success.

I believe in a collaborative approach. Each student's needs are different and require special attention. Working closely with each student's family is a vital component to student success.

Classroom Rules:

1. Have fun!
2. Respect everyone.
3. Be passionate.
4. Honor commitments.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Keep track of your own books and assignments.
2. Start your work on time and allow enough time to finish.
3. Ask for help when you need it.
4. Do your own work.
5. Turn your work in on time.
6. Accept responsibility for your learning.
7. Do your very best.

Parent Support:

To help your child stay organized and feel successful, I will post the weekly curriculum plan on my website: <http://www.woodside.k12.ca.us/District/Class/2860-Mr-Frank-s-Social-Studies-Class>. This is a projected plan for the week and may adjust according to the students' needs. The week's homework will be posted on the website, as well as the whiteboard in the classroom. Our class will also have Google Classroom where your child will find classroom assignments.

Parent conferences are scheduled for October 25-28.

Communication:

The best way to contact me is via email at sfrank@woodsideschool.us. You may also contact me by leaving a voice message at extension 1135.

Please review the syllabus with your parents/guardians, sign, and return this portion no later than Friday, August 26th. Then, store the syllabus in your social studies folder as a reference for the year.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent Email _____

Parent Phone Number _____