

Social Studies Syllabus – 2020-2021
7th Grade Social Studies:
Southwest Asia (Middle East), Southeastern Asia and Africa
Macon County Middle School

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Office Hours -Wednesday

8:30 am – 10:30 am & 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

This semester of the school year promises to be an exciting learning experience for 7th Grade Social Students. Students will continue to explore the history, geography, government, and economics of the eastern hemisphere; more specifically, Southeastern Asia and Africa. I invite and encourage the participation of all parents/guardians in your child's total learning process.

Academic Goals:

Goal for the year: All students will score at least 85% on unit tests and will meet or exceed the standards for passing state exams.

Daily goals:

- Student will score at least 85% on daily assessments
- Students will master academic standards

Course Content

This course is designed to expand students' knowledge and perspective of the world. The Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) curriculum for 7th Grade Social Studies focuses on Southwest Asia (Middle East), Southern Asia and Africa. Students' understanding of the world expands from local to international as they engage in lessons that reveal the dynamics of the geography, history, government and economics of Southwest Asia (Middle East), Southern Asia, and Africa.

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The Assignments

All assignments are aligned with the GPS 7th Grade Social Studies curriculum and are created with students' academic needs in-mind. Although student engagement is desired, the primary goal of lessons in Mr. Coley's class is to prepare students for future academic success by exposing students to high-level academic practice. Some examples of assignments and tasks that students will engage during this year are:

Homework

Home is assigned to reinforce important information and to provide students with opportunities to practice developing specific skills. For you to do well in this class, it is important to complete all of the assigned homework in a timely fashion. Homework will be assigned as needed, such as; for completion of class work and/or projects.

Students will normally be given class time to begin work on an assignment with the expectation that they will finish it at home and return it to me **on the due date**.

Maps

It is important that students are familiar with the location of specific countries in Asia and Africa for two reasons: Students are more likely to understand geography concepts when they can identify the relationship between things such as location and resources, and geography is 35% of the Criterion-Reference Competency Test. Therefore, students will be expected to draw, label, and color each location we discuss. An emphasis will continue to be placed on geography skills throughout the second semester.

Projects

During the study of each unit students will be assigned projects that are designed to measure students' ability to apply the information they learn to the creation of an item. Some examples are: • Forms of Government Poetry Notebook • Graphic Organizer that explains the dynamics of India, China and Japan • Informative Essay: How Nationalism Influenced Change in India and Vietnam?

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Tests/Quizzes

Tests and Quizzes are aligned with the GPS 7th grade Social Studies curriculum. The purpose of quizzes in Mr. Coley's class is to measure students understanding of key information and to provide students with opportunities to practice asking questions relating to key information.

Quizzes are given on Wednesdays and/or bi-weekly. The purpose of tests is to measure students overall understanding of GPS for 7th grade Social Studies.

Tests are given on Fridays or Mondays and/or bi-weekly.

Late Work

Students are given ample time in which to complete their work and are expected to turn it in on time. Work is due by the end of the class period on the date an assignment is due.

There are circumstances when late work is accepted:

- Students return from an excused absence
- Students have effectively managed time, but is facing challenges with understanding or completing the assignment

Materials

In order for your child to have a successful year in school, he/she will need to have the following items with them daily in order to participate fully in my classroom: 1. Two pens (blue or black ink) 2. Two pencils 3. White lined notebook filler paper 4. A notebook dedicated to Social Studies 5. Colored pencils (for the many maps we will be creating)

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Grades

Grades will be based on a point system. Grades will be given using the standard percentage scale issued according to district policy. Parents/Guardians can monitor their child's grades by logging on to Infinite Campus.org (for more information contact Macon County Middle School front office)

Major Grades- 70% (Test/Assessments 30%, Classroom work 25% Quizzes 15%)

Minor Grades- 30% (Homework 10%, Bell Ringers 10%, Notebook Checks 10%)

10 point grading scale

A- 100-90	Excellent
B- 89-80	Good
C- 79-70	Fair (68-69 will be rounded up to 70)
D- 70-73	F-67- below is Failing

- *If a student does not turn in an assignment the student has 2 days to turn in all make up work. After 2 days it will become a zero in the gradebook.*
- *All Students who receive lower than a 70 will have the opportunity to retest.*

Participation

Your involvement in this class will make it more exciting and educational. Students are encouraged to raise their hand and speak up in class, work cooperatively in team projects, and help fellow students with their learning. Together, we can all succeed. Your active participation in this class will positively affect your grade.