

Delmar School District

7th Grade Social Studies Course Syllabus & Outline



Faculty: Mr. Chad Dively **School Year:** 2022-2023

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Preparation Period: 2nd (8:30 to 9:55 daily)

Course Description:

At the 7th Grade level, Social Studies incorporates the study of four different Social Sciences. On average, we will spend a quarter of the year on each subject.

1) Geography: Citizens should possess a knowledge of geography and an ability to apply a geographical perspective to life situations. Geography studies the relationships of people, places, and environments from the perspective of where they occur, why they are there, and what meaning those locations have for us. Citizens with the knowledge and perspectives of geography understand the environmental and human processes that shape the Earth's surface and recognize the culturally distinctive ways people interact with the natural world to produce unique places.

2) History: History organizes events and phenomena in terms of *when* they occur, allowing students to study the ways individuals and societies have changed and interacted over time. They practice the skills of gathering historical data, and examining, analyzing, and interpreting these data. They learn to organize events through chronologies and to suggest and evaluate cause-and-effect relationships among those events. Before choosing a position or acting, citizens need to be able to research issues to understand the effect of historical developments and trends on contemporary events. The study of history empowers them to form reasonable conclusions about the potential consequences of available options.

3) Civics: Civics directly addresses citizenship education within the context of political systems. Students study the assumptions upon which governments are founded, and the organizations and strategies governments employ to achieve their goals. With specific respect to the United States, students learn the underlying principles of representative democracy, the constitutional separation of powers, and the rule of law. They need to comprehend that an essential premise of representative democracy is the willingness of citizens to place a high premium on their own personal responsibility for participation in social decision-making. Students develop the skills which citizens must possess in order to discharge those responsibilities while protecting their rights and the rights of others. The study of civics prepares students to translate their beliefs into actions and their ideas into policies.

4) Economics: Economics analyzes how individuals and societies produce, allocate, distribute, and expend resources. Students learn to examine the inherent relationship between costs and benefits, and the values associated with them. An understanding of economic principles, whole economies, and the interactions between different types of economies helps students comprehend the movement and exchange of information, capital, and products across the globe. Citizens need to be able to assess the impact of market influences and governmental actions on the economy in which they live. The study of economics equips them to make personal economic choices, and to participate responsibly and effectively in social decision-making as citizens in an increasingly competitive and interdependent global economy.

Course Expectations / Learning Outcomes:

Students will be called upon to use reading comprehension, political cartoon analysis, document interpretation, and other critical thinking skills throughout the course. Students will be called on from time to time to formulate or defend a position relative to a question of historical, governmental, or political significance. They also may be called on to detect author's purpose, bias, or meaning in a document or surmising why different decisions were made.

Students will be given assignments and materials to enable them to successfully complete the unit. Students are expected to complete all assignments within the allotted time to receive full credit. They are to maintain an organized notebook which will be graded at the end of each quarter. Classwork will consist of individual, partner, and group work. Partner and group work will be graded based on both the finished product and individual contributions. Culminating Performance Tasks, tests, and quizzes will be standards based to assess the students' understanding of the targeted benchmarks.

Delaware Social Studies Standards & Common Core Literacy Standards for Social Studies:

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2548>

Technology: laptop, document camera, Smartboard.

Course Outline/Curriculum Map:

September to Early November: Geography
Early November to Early February: History

Early February to Spring Break (Early April): Civics
Mid-April to June: Economics

Learning Activities:

- A) Research, informational text readings, open ended and extended response assignments
- B) Utilize maps, charts, graphs, political cartoons
- C) Incorporate Delaware Social Studies Benchmarks, History Common Core State Standards and ELA strategies
- D) Higher order thinking lessons and formative/summative assessments

Teaching Methods:

- a) Document-based and Historical Thinking Exercises and Writing
- b) Individual Work
- c) Small Groups / Pair-Share / Cooperative Learning Group Discussions /Debate
- d) Graphic Organizers / Teacher led discussion
- e) Video/Video Clips Guided Practice
- f) Peer Review/Error Analysis Learning Focused Strategies
- g) Check for Understandings

Homework Policy:

Any homework that is assigned is to be turned in at the beginning of the class the day it is due. Homework will either be an extension/enrichment of the current unit of study or a completion of work started in the classroom. Homework grading will be based on a combination of effort and correctness. Makeup work not turned in will result in a zero.

Grading, Assessment, and Evaluation Procedures:

All grading is based on a point system. Mid-quarter and end of quarter grade will be based on number of points earned out of total points possible.

Delmar Middle & High School Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentages	Grade	Percentages	Grade	Percentages	Grade	Percentages
A+	98 – 100	B+	89 – 91	C+	80 – 82	D+	71 – 73
A	95 – 97	B	86 – 88	C	77 – 79	D	68 – 70
A -	92 – 94	B-	83 – 85	C-	74 – 76	D-	65 – 67
						F	Below 65

Materials Provided by the Student:

A 2 inch 3-ring binder with 5 dividers

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____