

# 8th Grade Social Studies - Mr. Clark

**Email:** [jclark@jajags.com](mailto:jclark@jajags.com)

**Room:** 137

**Drop-in Help Times:** 7:30-8:15 a.m. T-F, 3:15-4:00 p.m. M-TR

**Website:** [www.clark.jajags.com](http://www.clark.jajags.com)

## **Mission Statement:**

The mission of this class is to encourage students' growth as responsible, knowledgeable, and curious members of society.

## **In This Class:**

Have you ever heard the phrase "Things aren't like they were in the good old days?"

So why is it that things change anyway?

Social studies is the story of the human experience, and our goal throughout the semester is to examine times and places where revolutionary change occurred to see how history is both different and similar to our own experiences and to see how the past laid the groundwork for the present. We will study global revolutions through a combination of primary source and data analysis, individual research, lecture and note taking, and simulation.

## **Grading Policy:**

Unit Exams/Big Assignments:	40%
Daily Assignments/Group Work:	40%
Class Discussion/Participation:	10%
Final Exam	10%

The grading scale used will be:

- A = 90% and up
- B = 89% - 80%
- C = 79% - 70%
- D = 69% - 60%
- F = 59% and lower

An “A” grade on an assignment means that you fully understood the subject and went above and beyond in your effort.

A “B” grade on an assignment means that you mostly understood the subject and showed a strong effort.

A “C” grade on an assignment means that you somewhat understood the subject and displayed average effort.

A “D” grade on an assignment means you don’t quite understand the subject yet or that your effort could have been stronger.

A “F” grade on an assignment means that you don’t understand the subject yet or that your effort could have been much stronger.

### **Classroom Procedures:**

- **Entering the classroom:** Please wait until I am at the door to greet you before you enter the room. Once you’re inside, head to your seat and take out any homework that is due. Then, turn in your homework and head back to your seat so that I can take attendance.
- **Giving instructions:** I will count down from 3 on his fingers when I need your attention. By the time I am finished counting down, please finish your conversations and be ready to listen to my directions.
- **Speaking in class:** Please raise your hand and wait to be called on before sharing your thoughts.
- **Discussion:** Please talk at a reasonable volume so that every group can hear. Listen respectfully to all speakers in the classroom. Please use respectful language at all times.
- **Turning in work:** Homework is due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date and should be put in the homework folder on the corner of my desk.
- **Absences:** Please see me when you get back to school if you are ever absent to see what you missed. You have two days for every day you miss to make up your work after an excused absence.
- **Tardies:** If you are ever late, please come in quietly and try to get started and then see me later to find out what you missed. Parents and administrators will be informed of repeated tardies per school policy.
- **Late Work:** Late assignments will not be accepted for credit. If an emergency prevents you from finishing your work on time, please email me and ask for an extension.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else’s work without giving them credit. Plagiarism does not help you learn and will not be tolerated. Do not copy another student’s work, use internet sources without attribution, or let another student copy your work. The minimum consequence for plagiarism is loss of credit for that assignment and an email sent home.
- **Food/Drink:** Water bottles with a closable lid are allowed. Please don’t eat or drink other food or liquids in class without permission.

- **Restrooms:** Give me a “thumbs up” to ask to go to the bathroom. When I give you the “thumbs up” back, please sign out using the sheet by the door and then sign in again when you return.
- **Electronic Devices:** Please put your cellphone in the assigned pocket on the hanger by Mr. Truta’s desk and do not use them during class unless I give you permission.
- **Dismissal:** Please wait until I tell you to write down your homework and pack up, then quietly pack up your supplies and sit at your desk until I dismiss you.
- **Contact:** The best way to reach me is through email ([jclark@jajags.com](mailto:jclark@jajags.com)). I can also be reached by phone at (303) 465-7647 and am available to meet individually before or after school by appointment.

### **Classroom Rules and Behavior Policy:**

1. Be in your seat with your required materials out when the bell rings.
2. Sit in your assigned seat for the entire period unless asked to move.
3. Please do not talk while someone else is addressing the class.
4. Follow all directions the first time they are given.
5. Do not use cellphones or other electronic devices during class unless directed to do so.

#### **Consequence Scale:**

- 1st mistake: Verbal warning/discussion
- 2nd mistake: Complete an individual action plan to prevent further infractions.
- 3rd mistake: Assignment to lunch detention or Friday school and parents/guardians contacted.
- Repeated mistakes: Individual conference with parents/guardians and administrators to develop an individual behavior plan.

#### **Rewards for Exceptional Positive Behavior:**

- Verbal praise (daily)
- Opportunity to earn 10 minutes of history game time (Fridays)
- Raise-a-grade coupon (once per semester)

### **Required Materials:**

- A 3-ring binder
- A spiral notebook
- Daily assignment planner
- Pencil or blue/black pen

## Honors:

- As a staff at Jefferson Academy, we know that there are many students who want to challenge themselves in class and earn an additional recognition for their effort. The honors designation in social studies is a special recognition of success available to any student that completes the following requirements:
  - An average score of 85% or above on all daily work and tests.
  - No more than 2 missing assignments per semester.
  - Completion of supplemental assessments with a passing score.
    - These assessments will be made available at the end of a unit and will be deeper, open-ended assessments of high-level understanding of the class material.
    - Supplemental assessments will be given a mark of meets or does not meet expectations, but this mark will not count towards your grade in class, only towards your honors designation.
    - Life is busy and mistakes happen. You may miss or not pass one supplemental assignment per semester and still earn honors distinction.

## Course Schedule:

Unit:	Topic:
1	Neolithic Revolution
2	American Revolution
3	French Revolution
4	Haitian Revolution
5	Industrial Revolution

## Course Structure:

Each unit of study is made up of about 6 to 8 class periods. At the end of each unit, I will give you a study guide and we will review the unit together in class before you take a test. Please check Google classroom throughout each unit for due dates and links to copies of your assignments.

# Contact Information, and Acknowledgement:

-I have read and understand Mr. Clark's classroom policies and procedures for 8th grade social studies.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the info below to ensure I have your correct contact information:

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_