

## 8th Grade Social Studies Syllabus

Mr. Truta Room 137

Office Hours: M-Th 7:30-8:00 M-Th 3:30-5:30 PM

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### Course Overview:

The focus in social studies this year will be world revolutions. Some of these are political or governmental revolutions while others are revolutions of lifestyle or religion. The central question is: what happens to societies when life changes rapidly?

### Materials Required:

- A dedicated notebook just for this class
- A dedicated folder just for this class
- Daily JA Jags planner
- Pencil or pen (blue or black ink please!)

### Course Requirements and Rules:

- Every member of the classroom community will be respected. This goes for students, teachers, and guests.
- Show up prepared and on time. This means that you are in your seat when the bell rings and you have your notebook and pencil.
- When someone in class is speaking and has the floor everyone is quiet.
- Social studies is a participation sport! You are expected to be a part of individual assignments, group assignments, and class discussion. Your opinion counts.
- There are times when we will be using phones as learning tools but for the most part I do not want to see them in your hands or on desks. If I have to ask you more than once I will confiscate them.
- Respect the KaKaa

### Personal Teaching Philosophy

- We may call it social studies, history, geography, or civics but what we are studying is *the human experience*. What it means to be human in the past and present is the focus of the class.
- No two students learn in the same way. This means that we focus on a variety of activities in the classroom. JA is a college preparatory school. The primary skills used in college are reading and writing and our lessons will reflect this but we will be doing so much more. Examples include (but not limited to) producing artwork, performance, debate, discussion, food, research, film, fashion, and music.
- I design the class that I would want to be in as a student.
- History is subjective. This means that your personal take on the issues matter more in this class than other classes.

- My goal is to 1) to prepare students for college level education and 2) increase passion awareness, and curiosity about the past.
- The essential questions are: Who we are, where we're from, and where are we going?

## Grading

Category	Percentage of Grade
Daily Work-Assignments/Group Work	40%
Unit Tests and Big Assignments	40%
Finals	10%
Participation	10%

- If there is ever a case in which you feel you did not get the grade you deserve please come talk to me and make your case. In social studies as in life, everything is negotiable.

## How Is 8th Grade Different From 7th Grade?

- More questions and less answers
- A lot more writing
- More deep thinking and coming up with your own ideas
- A lot more group discussion

## Absences and Late Work

- Eventually you're probably going to miss a day in junior high. JA is college prep school so you need to do what college students do in a case like that: come find the teacher! I email students the lessons the day you are absent.
- Extensions-If you are working on an assignment and feel you need more time simply ask for an extension. If you have used your time wisely in class this will not be a problem.
- If you have not asked for extra time and the assignment is due you will not be able to turn the assignment in. *I do not accept late work.*

## Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

- This is a fancy way of saying "cheating". I do not like cheating.
- In junior high cheating is most often copying answers from your classmates' work, allowing someone to copy your work, or downloading work from the internet and passing it off as your own
- If you are caught cheating you will receive a zero on the assignment or test and your parents will be notified

## Discipline:

We operate on a three tiered system

- Level one is when I am forced to on you by name. "Hey Frankie, please stop talking."
- Level two is when I ask you to leave the room and we have a conversation in the hall. This may or may not be followed with a call or email home.
- Level three is when you visit with Mrs Porreco. There are many possible outcomes.

Honors:

- JA is a college prep school and many students want to be in the honors section
- According to the student handbook "*Students are placed in Honors classes based on a number of criteria: performance in subject area of 85% or above, performance on standardized tests, work ethic, motivation, writing ability, the student's high level of interest and strong desire to be challenged in the subject area. Students that are in Honors classes are not guaranteed an Honors class the following semester and/or year. Final decisions are at the teachers' discretion.*"
- For me personally I am looking for students that have no zeros, take part in classroom discussions, no incidents of academic dishonesty, and are in the top ¼ of writers in the class and 90%+ in both daily work and tests.

I understand the policies of Mr. Truta's 8th Grade Social Studies class.

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Student Name

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Student Signature

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Parent Name

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Parent Signature