

7th Grade Social Studies Syllabus - Mrs. McLaughlin Room 405

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to 7th grade at Houston Middle School! My name is Jordan McLaughlin, and I will be teaching 7th grade Social Studies this year. I earned my Bachelor of Science from the University of Mississippi and my Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Memphis. This is my sixth year teaching and I am very excited about the new school year. I will work very hard to make your child's 7th grade experience a rewarding one.

Attached you will find a Student Information Sheet and I would be grateful if you would take a few minutes from your busy day to complete it. It will help me get to know you and your child, and it will give me up-to-date contact information. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Communication. You are an integral part of your child's success this year and throughout his or her education. It is very important for us to have open lines of communication between home and school. You can contact me any time through the school office at (901) 756-2366 or via email at Jordan.McLaughlin@gmsdk12.org. Email will be the most efficient way of contacting me during the school day. My teacher website is forthcoming and information will be provided soon. (<http://www.gmsdk12.org/McLaughlinJordan.aspx>)

Course Description.

Seventh grade students will explore social, cultural, geographical, political and technological changes after the fall of the Roman Empire and in Medieval Europe. Students will also study fifteenth to the eighteenth century history, including the Islamic world, Africa, China, and Japan, but with heavier emphasis on western civilization in Europe during the Renaissance and Reformation. Students will compare/contrast the history and geography of civilizations developing concurrently throughout the continents during medieval times. They will examine growth in economic interactions among civilizations and exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Students will learn about the spread of Enlightenment philosophies and the examination of new concepts of reasoning in religion, government, and science that continue to influence our world today. Students will analyze geography's influence on the development of civilizations. Seventh grade students will end the year by examining Meso-American and Andean civilizations, and the age of European explorations. Informational texts and primary sources will be used to deepen the understanding of how these civilizations influence the modern world. (Source: "Seventh Grade Social Studies Standards," Tennessee Department of Education. http://www.tn.gov/education/standards/social_studies/std_ss_gr_7.pdf.)

Course Outline.

Quarter 1: Fall of the Roman Empire; Islamic World, 400AD/CE-1500s; Africa, 400AD/CE-1500s

Quarter 2: China, 400AD/CE-1500s; Japan, 400AD/CE-1500s; Middle Ages in Western Europe, 400AD/CE-1500s

Quarter 3: The Renaissance and Reformation; The Enlightenment and Scientific Revolution

Quarter 4: The Age of Exploration

Daily Supplies. Each student should bring the following supplies to class daily: interactive notebook, notebook paper, red pen, highlighter, and pencils.

Grading. In accordance with district and school policy, students earn at least two grades per week with a maximum of 20 quarterly grades. Grade values are: 50% Assessments 40% Classwork and Quizzes 10% Homework

Class Procedures. In addition to following class, school, and district rules and policies, students will commit to the following class procedures:

- *Preparation.* Students will enter class prepared with all necessary supplies. The first two minutes of class are allocated for this, including the sharpening of pencils.
- *Engagement.* Students will participate fully in class activities and complete assignments in a timely manner.
- *Responsibility.* Students will remain organized and keep track of their academic progress.

Consequences.

1 st offense:	verbal warning
2 nd offense:	conduct mark and student behavior log
3 rd offense:	conduct mark and parent notification (per phone call)
4 th offense:	conduct mark and detention
5 th offense:	conduct mark and parent conference
6 th offense:	conduct mark and office referral

**Severe behavior results in immediate referral to office (ie: physical confrontations between students.)

Absences and Make-Up Work. It is the responsibility of the student to determine work missed due to absences. Upon returning to school, students **must** check their class's absent folder to obtain missed assignments and sign up to take assessments or quizzes missed during absence. This procedure is taught and reinforced in class to ensure students' understanding. Students are allowed one day for each day of an absence to make up any missed assignments. Assessments and quizzes are made up on Thursday afternoons after school.