

7th Grade Social Studies

1st Period: 8:40-9:30am, Mon.-Fri.

2nd Period: 9:30-10:20am, Mon.-Fri.

Rachelle Dolan, Instructor

E-mail: rdolan@sjsissaquah.org

Phone: (425) 888-9130 ext. 108

Website: <http://msdolansclassroomwebsite.weebly.com>

Texts:

Gibbs Smith: *Washington in the Pacific Northwest*

McDougal/Littell: *World History: Medieval and Early Modern Times*

McDougal/Littell: *Creating America, A History of the United States*

Course Overview

The seventh grade social studies course is divided into three areas of study. The first trimester focuses on Washington State History, the second trimester focuses on Medieval and Early Modern World History and the third trimester focuses on American History, specifically on the causes and nature of the American Civil War.

Washington State History

Washington State History covers the following:

- Washington's geography and its effect on the state's economy and culture over time
- The nature of early exploration / settlement in the Pacific Northwest and the resulting conflicts of interest between European settlers and Native Americans
- The effect of immigration and advances in transportation on the demographics of the Pacific Northwest over time
- The origins and results of social and political reform in Washington state, before and after the world wars
- How World War I, the Great Depression and World War II changed the political, social and economic landscape of the region
- How the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement affected the culture and politics of Washington State
- Globalization and economic growth of Washington in the 1960's to the present day and its effect on people and the environment
- How the Washington State Government works and our rights and responsibilities as citizens

Medieval and Early Modern World

Medieval and Early Modern World covers the following:

- The beginnings of Islam and the rise of the Muslim States
- The cultural, political and technological developments of China and other Asian countries 200A.D.-1400A.D.
- Political and social characteristics of Feudal Europe
- The clash of cultures between Medieval Europe and the Ottoman Empire
- The causes and key cultural characteristics of the Renaissance
- The Reformation and its effects on the political and religious power in Europe

- The influence of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment on European culture

U.S. History: The Civil War

The U.S. History course covers the following:

- Political, social and economic tensions that led to the Civil War
- How the Civil War was fought and how it affected the lives of Americans
- How the Civil War was won and the political, social and economic outcomes of the war

In addition to topics covered, students will learn to think critically about topics in history by analyzing and evaluating sources and coming to reasoned conclusions about historical issues. Students in this course will be expected to work as historians, meaning they will not always be ‘told’ history but will learn how historians use sources and construct arguments. Students will be expected to gather their own information and construct their own historical arguments. The skills they will develop include:

- How to interpret and understand different sources of information, including maps, graphs, charts and other visuals
- How to recognize and use primary and secondary sources to make an argument about history
- How to evaluate a source for bias and accuracy
- How to analyze and synthesize information about a historical time period
- How to write or otherwise provide an interpretation of history based on sound evaluation of sources and synthesis of materials

Tests, Homework and Assignments

For every unit of study during the year, students will have an exam that covers the skills and material covered in the unit. Students will be assigned class work and homework throughout the unit that will prepare them for each exam. Typically, this work will include readings from their textbooks and other sources, as well as graphic organizers and questions to help them better understand and apply their readings. Students will often have short quizzes to assess their knowledge during a unit. Students will also do a variety of activities during class time to help them understand and think critically about course material. These include working with primary sources to do historical investigations, interpreting history through writing and drama, and participating in class discussions and debates about key issues in the unit.

Students will have homework every night, and will record homework assignments daily in their student planners. Homework assignments will also be posted on my website at:

<http://msdolansclassroomwebsite.weebly.com>

Grades/Assessment

Students will always be assessed on all their work and will receive timely feedback, through daily homework and assignments on their progress in the course. Assignments and tests will be assigned points based on their importance in the course. For all work, including tests, students will receive clear guidelines as to what is expected and for major projects they will be provided with rubrics that outline the expectations for their work. Points are calculated into grades based on the percentage scale outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. Grades are weighted as follows:

Unit Tests: 50%

Daily Work/Homework/Quizzes: 30%
Participation: 20%

A participation grade is given to each student daily. Students will receive full points for their participation grade if they come to class on time, come prepared with all their materials and participate actively in the classroom activities.

Materials:

Students are required to bring the following materials to class every day so that they can participate fully in classroom activities. Failure to bring the required materials to class results in a lower participation grade.

1. Textbook for the course
2. Blue or Black pen
3. Pencil
4. Student planner and binder
5. Notebook paper

Absences/Missed Work:

This course follows the guidelines outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook. When a student has an absence, they must arrange for make-up work on the day they return. In general, the student will have the same number of days to complete missed work as the number of days they were absent. Students may check the class website, with peers and in the absent tray to obtain missed work, and come to me for any additional work missed that they need. All assignments/tests/projects assigned **before** the absence are due on the day of the student's return. Similarly, students are still expected to take tests and turn in major projects on the day they return from an absence (if you are absent the day of a test or when a major assignment is due, it is due the day you return). If a student knows about an absence ahead of time, they should make arrangements with me prior to the absence.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to do their own work, in and out of class. Cheating and plagiarizing includes: copying or borrowing assignments, communicating during tests and plagiarizing papers or information from the Internet. Cheating is a serious offense and will immediately result in a conduct referral.

Classroom Expectations

1. Come to class prepared with all required materials.
2. Follow instructions the first time.
3. Raise your hand and wait to be called on during whole class instruction. During individual / group work, flip your desk sign to show you need help.
4. Be respectful of yourself, your classmates and your classroom.

Come to class prepared with all required materials:

1. Bring all required materials to class everyday. This includes all pertinent notes and materials we have been using in our current unit of study. When we switch to a new unit or focus, we will clean out our binders together in class. Leave all notes and handouts in your binders until we clean them out in class in preparation for a new unit.
2. Have homework for the day ready and on your desk at the start of class. Homework not out at the start of class will be marked as late (all late assignments receive 60% credit).
3. Make up missed assignments promptly. (See Parent-Student handbook and this syllabus for my policy on missed work.)
4. Use the restrooms during passing times, lunch and break. Each student will receive only 3 bathroom passes per trimester (they will sign out to use these). At the end of the trimester, students will receive 10 pts extra credit for each bathroom pass that is unused.

Be respectful of yourself, your classmates and your classroom:

1. Dispose of food or gum before class.
2. Do not write on yourself, desks or walls.
3. Keep an organized cubby.
4. Leave all cell phones, MP3 players and other electronic devices in your backpack turned off or at home.
5. Enter class quietly and immediately begin the 'Do Now' task for the day.

Discipline Policy will follow the guidelines in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Teacher-Parent-Student Agreement

Please return this sheet signed to indicate that you have read and understand the information and expectations in this course syllabus.

Parent Signature_____

Student Signature_____

Please cover all your textbooks with heavy paper (grocery bags work great).

I am looking forward to an amazing year!