



7th Grade World History and Geography The Medieval World and Beyond

Ms. Amy Borges

Room 30

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Seventh grade social studies focuses on the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia, Central America, and South America in the years A.D. 500-1789. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archeologists and historians uncover the past, students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings, the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces encouraged by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

Course Goals:

This class is designed to captivate, entertain, and stimulate, while developing an understanding of conceptual and factual historical knowledge. In addition, we will focus on developing reading comprehension skills with expository text, formal reasoning skills, research skills, working in groups, oral presentations, technology-based projects, current events, and simulations. We will also practice different forms of note taking such as concept mapping (graphic organizers), highlighting, Cornell notes, and outlining.

To prepare for eighth grade social studies, we will build a strong foundation in research and writing and will work to include more complex, high order thinking skills.

Course Text:

History Alive!: The Medieval World and Beyond. Teachers' Curriculum Institute, Palo Alto, CA: 2011.

Online Textbook:

Your student can sign in to his/her subscription by going to http://www.learntci.com/student/sign_in and entering his/her WSD computer log in and password:

Teacher Email	aborges@woodsideschool.us
Username	your WSD computer username
Password (case sensitive)	your WSD computer password

Homework and Grading Policy: All grading, written work, testing, and homework standards that are used in this class reflect the adopted Academic Standards for Woodside School.

Woodside School Grading Standards

GRADE	PERCENT	GRADE POINT
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	.67
F	below 60	0.00

Incompletes (INC): Students who have a passing grade in class but have not completed all of the required work by report card time may receive an “INC” in place of a letter grade. That student will then have two weeks to complete the required work to receive a grade. If the work is not completed in that period of time, the student’s grade will be based on an average of grades recorded plus a zero for each missing assignment.

Test Corrections: Students may do test corrections if they score below a 70%. The directions for how to do test corrections are on my website. By completing test corrections properly, your child may earn up to a 70% score.

Grading: Grades are not weighted in my class. Tests and large projects are usually worth 100 points. Smaller projects are usually worth 50 points. Class work, homework assignments, and quizzes are usually worth 25 points.

Excused Absences: Students will be given the opportunity to make up missed assignments because of an excused absence. Excused absences include medical appointments and sickness. Students will be given one additional day for each excused absence to make up assignments for no loss of credit.

Unexcused Absences: Students who miss school due to suspension, truancy, travel and/or unexcused absences (sports and shadowing other schools) must turn in their missed work upon return. If a test happens to fall on the day the student returns to class, he or she will be required to take the test that day.

Late Work: All late homework, projects, and essays will be subject to a deduction of up to 10%. Missed tests will need to be completed within one week of the original test date.

Homework: Homework will be purposeful and designed to reinforce the concepts we have covered in class. Homework will not exceed 20 minutes a night.

Projects: We will complete several small projects, as well as a few large projects, throughout the year. Long-term projects will be assigned at least three weeks before the due date. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the long-term project before the due date if he or she will not be at school the day the project is due.

Organization: Students should keep all assignments in their social studies folders and bring them to class each day. Students should not throw anything away unless instructed by the teacher. Students should keep their Table of Contents up to date for each unit of study. We will organize our binders after the end of each unit of study. Students will receive a grade for binder organization. All student unit binders will remain in the classroom at all times.

Acceptability of Written Work: All work must be neatly done in legible handwriting or type written. I will often require that writing be typed, so the use of a computer is strongly suggested. Unless otherwise specified, I prefer students' work to be submitted in hard copy form, not electronically.

All student-prepared work is to have the following heading:

<p>Full Student Name Date Class (8A/B, 7X/Y)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Title of Assignment</i></p>
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Missing part of the heading on a typed assignment may result in a 5% deduction.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know your child and sharing my love of history with them!

My Teaching Style:

Each of your children learns in a different way. In Room 30, each child's learning styles will be addressed and individual strengths will be used as building blocks for further instruction and conceptual understanding.

Our classroom community is a supportive and positive learning environment where I encourage students to take responsibility for their learning while interacting respectfully with their peers and teacher.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be Nice.
2. Tell the Truth.
3. Offer to Help.
4. Clean Up.
5. Don't Give Up.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Keep track of your own books and assignments.
2. Start your work on time and allow enough time to finish.
3. Ask for help when you need it.
4. Do your own work.
5. Turn your work in on time.
6. Accept responsibility for your learning.
7. Do your very best.

Parent Support:

To help your child stay organized and feel successful, I will post our weekly curriculum plan in Google Classroom. Only students have access to our teacher GC pages, so please consult with your child about the week's homework. This is a projected plan for the week and may adjust according to the students' needs. The week's homework will also be posted on the whiteboard in the classroom.

Parent conferences are scheduled for October 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Communication:

The best way to contact me is via email at aborges@woodsideschool.us You may also contact me by leaving a voice message at extension 1030.

I am here to teach your child about history, but more importantly, I am here to support your child in his or her academic career. Please contact me immediately if you feel your child is struggling academically or socially.

I am really looking forward to an exciting school year!

With Wildcat Pride,

Ms. Amy Borges

-----DETACH HERE-----

Please review the syllabus with your parents/guardians, sign, and return this portion by Friday, August 24th. Then, store the syllabus in your binder as a reference for the year.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent Email _____

Parent Phone Number _____