

Ancient Civilizations (Social Studies 7)

Course Description: Using the five components of civilization (1. Centralized Government, 2. Organized Religion, 3. Arts, Architecture, and Infrastructure, 4. Job Specialization and Social Classes, and 5. Writing), and the five fields of social studies (1. Political Science, 2. Economics, 3. History, 4. Geography and 5. Behavioral Science), this course will examine prehistory, the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Europe during the Middle Ages (Curriculum, 2012).

Course Outline:

- (1) Introduction:
 - Five Themes of Social Studies
 - Five Components of Civilization
 - Understanding Maps and Timelines
- (2) Prehistory:
 - Prehistory v. History
 - The Stone Age (Old, Middle, New)
 - Beginnings of Civilization
- (3) Fertile Crescent (including Israel and Judaism):
 - Geography of the Middle East (Past and Present)
 - Ancient Sumer
 - Fertile Crescent Empires: Babylonians, Assyrians, New Babylonians, Persians, and Phoenicians.
 - Trade and the Sea
 - Judaism: Israelites, Modern Israel, Anti-Semitism
- (4) Ancient Egypt:
 - The Geography of Egypt
 - Egyptian Kingdoms
 - Egyptian Religion
 - Ancient Egyptian Culture
- (5) Ancient Greece:
 - Early Greek History
 - Classical Greek History
 - Greek Contributions
- (6) Ancient Rome (including Christianity):
 - The Roman Republic
 - The Roman Empire
 - Roman Contributions
 - Christianity
- (7) Europe in the Middle Ages (including Islam):
 - Islam
 - Feudal System
 - Development of Towns
 - Medieval Trade

Note: Although the outline of the course is based loosely on the text, the course text will not guide instruction (Curriculum, 2012).

Classroom Rules:

- (1) Be responsible for your surroundings. Please pick up all items from the floor around your desk and return all borrowed materials.
- (2) Be mindful that the classroom is not the cafeteria. Food and drink should not be used in class.
- (3) Be kind, courteous, and respectful to your teacher and classmates. Please do not disturb the property of others.
- (4) Be prepared for the start of each class. Students should have paper, writing instruments, books, etc. before the teacher begins the lesson.

Formative Assessments:

- (1) Homework and/or Current Events
- (2) Class Participation/Questions of the day
- (3) Quizzes
- (4) Projects
- (5) Tests
- (6) Debates
- (7) Presentations

Note: A variety of formative assessments will take place throughout the year; each of the above-mentioned possibilities may or may not be utilized.

Summative Assessments:

- (1) Class Discussion
- (2) Ungraded Assignments/Classwork
- (3) Notes (Cornell)
- (4) Notebook

Note: A variety of summative assessments will take place throughout the year; each of the above-mentioned possibilities may or may not be utilized.

Necessities:

- (1) Binder including Notebook Paper - To store notes, maps and handouts (this may include other subjects)
- (2) Pens and/or Pencils - I suggest students have multiple available
- (3) Textbook - Will be kept in the classroom and signed out as needed - All *honors students* will be issued textbooks for reading outside of the classroom.
- (4) Composition Notebook - for current events/journal entries.

Note: In order to become a successful student, other materials may be used throughout the year; the teacher will keep students abreast of other needs.

Policies:1. **ZAP Policy***:**What happens if...****I don't do a homework assignment?**

- You **MUST** do this work during POWER period on your own.

What will my grade be?

- **Half credit** if it is submitted within **48 hours/2 school days**.
- **More than 2 days?** The assignment **must still be done** but the grade earned will only be a **'1'** meaning that it has been done.

Why must I still do it?

- Because the learning of this information is important for future assignments and assessments!

2. **REDO Policy***:**What happens if...****I don't do a long term (formative OR summative) assessment such as a take-home test, project, essay, etc.)?**

- You will get **10% deducted (from the grade you earned) per day it is late!**

What happens if...**I fail a major test (get less than a 63%)?**

- You have the **option** of completing a **TEST ERROR ANALYSIS** within one calendar week for the learning opportunity and an updated score of 75% for that assessment.

Does the REDO policy apply to all assignments?

- The following projects have **NO REDO** opportunities because of the nature of these assessments, the scaffolding of them, and the opportunity to get assistance during POWER period **PRIOR** to the due dates: **Projects and Papers**.

**Note: The above-mentioned policies have been adopted by the Muhlenberg School District Social Studies Department and have been implemented in all social studies class grades seven through twelve.*

2. **Plagiarism** - Students will not be permitted to copy information from other sources and use it as their own. If plagiarism is detected, the student will be issued a zero for the assignment. They may receive credit (-25%) for the assignment (for a first offense) if they redo the assignment AND I have met with the student and parent/guardian. All students and parents/guardians will sign a plagiarism policy sheet. After the first warning, meeting, and deduction of credit, they will be assigned a zero for any further assignments in which plagiarism has occurred - no redo permitted.

4. **Responsibility** - Students will be held responsible for any assignments and/or notes which were missed during an absence. They must make arrangements to meet with me during a POWER period.

5. **Class Participation** - In a typical week, there are five participation points that a student may

earn. Those points are awarded based on the completion of class work and/or participation in class discussions and/or on-task behavior. This grade will be awarded based on my observations.

6. **Honors students** will be expected to complete different assignments than those in general courses. Although the content material will be the same, the honors classes will require a more in-depth approach to the study of world history. They will also be assigned reading to complete outside of class along with independent Cornell Notes.

Student Name: _____

I have read, and understand, all of the policy described in the course guide and syllabus.

Student / Date

Parent/Guardian / Date