

SPU Humanities

Grade 7

Syllabus 2025- 2026

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Supplies

Students will need one spiral notebook (college-ruled) with at least 70 pages per Humanities subject (ELA, history, and writing). Students should also have a space for important papers, either a binder tab or a folder. The middle school supply list for all classes can be found below. Students should carry these supplies with them every day.

- #2 pencils, sharpened
- 1 medium-sized eraser
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 highlighter
- 1 pair of scissors
- Glue sticks
- Ruler (with inches and centimeters)
- 3x5 index cards
- Folder/Binder/Files with 6 tabs
- Headphones/earbuds to use with Chromebooks *for school purposes only*

All students:

Please bring a water bottle labeled with your name (Glass water bottles are not allowed.)

Phones and other electronics are not allowed on campus.

Curriculum

English Language Arts: Houghton Mifflin Collections gives students the tools they need to think critically, expand their curiosity, and tackle challenging concepts—which helps them learn to close read selections and prepare for high-stakes assessments.

History: This course uses *McGraw-Hill* as the primary resource to guide students through an engaging exploration of world history. Students will investigate major civilizations, belief systems, and transformative events through a mix of reading, discussion, and critical thinking activities. The curriculum is enriched with a variety of supplemental materials, including primary source documents, educational videos, and teacher-created slideshows, to bring historical events and figures to life. Through interactive lessons and

diverse resources, students will develop historical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of how the past continues to shape our world today.



Writing: Aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts, the curriculum emphasizes three key types of writing: argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative.

Grading Policies

Academic Grade:

The academic grades are based on student work, assessments, and participation. A heavier emphasis is placed on tests and quizzes as these show us what a student knows and can do independently. We value academic integrity. Copying or cheating on **any** assignment will result in disciplinary action.

90%-100% A 80-89.9% B 70-79.9% C 60%-69.9% D 0-59.9% F

Assignment Category	Weighted Percentage In Academic Grade
Summative	50%
Formative	35%
Participation	15%

Late assignments:

Absent students have 2 weeks to turn in missing work for full credit. Late work for other reasons can earn up to 80%. After 2 weeks, the work will not be accepted. It is the **student's responsibility** to find out what assignment(s) he/she has missed while absent. Please make every effort to schedule vacations and appointments outside of the school day.

Exams:

If you score below a 70%, you may discuss with your teacher whether a retake or additional work is available. You must reach out to your teacher **within a week**.

Citizenship Grade:

A Citizenship Grade reflects a student's *promptness, attitude, effort, and behavior in class* over the course of the trimester. At SPU, "Saints SOAR!" They are Safe, On-task, Accepting, and Respectful.

Our classrooms will support learning through a positive approach to classroom management that values group work, perseverance, and emotional and physical safety. General expectations include following school rules, being respectful, being responsible, and contributing to the learning environment. Rewards and consequences will be assigned as appropriate.

Outstanding (O): shows outstanding behavior at all times

Satisfactory (S): shows acceptable behavior for a learning environment

Needs Improvement (N): shows behavior that needs improvement

Unsatisfactory (U): shows behavior that is unsatisfactory in a learning environment

Classroom Expectations

Our behavior policies focus on making the classroom an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for everyone.

1. Bring all necessary materials to class.
2. Follow directions the first time.
3. Be respectful and courteous to all.
4. Be in your seat and ready to work at the start of the class.
5. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
6. Keep our classrooms and campus clean.
7. Any plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will **not** be tolerated.
8. All San Pasqual Union school rules apply.

Overview of English

The English Language Arts course is designed to develop students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Through a diverse selection of literature, nonfiction texts, and writing assignments, students will deepen their understanding of language, strengthen their analytical abilities, and express their ideas effectively.

Class discussions, presentations, and collaborative projects will encourage students to articulate their thoughts, engage with multiple perspectives, and build confidence as communicators.

Overview of History

In 7th-grade History, students will explore key global civilizations and transformative periods that shaped the modern world. Using McGraw-Hill's curriculum, Unit 1 focuses on the fall of the Roman Empire, the rise of Christianity, and the emergence of new empires, including Medieval Europe and the Islamic World. Unit 2 examines the cultures and developments of the Middle Ages across China, Korea, Japan, the Americas, India, and Africa. Finally, Unit 3 covers major turning points in history such as the Renaissance, Reformation,

Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, and Enlightenment—highlighting how ideas, discoveries, and global interactions changed societies.

Overview of Writing

Students will learn to write clearly and effectively for a range of purposes. Emphasis will be placed on narrative, argumentative, and explanatory writing. Students will engage in every step of the writing process, and learn to support claims with relevant evidence, organize ideas logically, and use precise language. This course prepares students for high school writing demands and supports their growth as confident communicators.

Please sign and return to your teacher by Friday, 8/29/2025.

I have read and understand the course syllabus.

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Cohort: _____

Student Signature: _____