

7th Grade Texas History Syllabus

Course Title: Texas History

Grade Level: 7th Grade

Instructor: Angela Chapa (angela.chapa@bcisdistrict.net)

Honors Instructor: Marisa Barrera (marisa.barrera@bcisdistrict.net)

Conference Period: 9:42-10:30 am

School Year: 2025-2026

Course Description

This course is a chronological and thematic study of Texas from its earliest inhabitants to the present day. Students will analyze the political, economic, geographic, and social (PEGS) influences that shaped Texas' history and identity. Emphasis will be placed on historical inquiry, critical thinking, primary and secondary source analysis, and connections to United States and world history.

Units of Study

Unit 1: Geography and Native Texans

- Texas geography and regions
- Native American cultures of Texas
- Influence of environment on settlement patterns

Unit 2: Age of Contact and Spanish Colonial Era

- Early European explorers of Texas
- Mission-presidio system
- Spanish influence on Texas culture

Unit 3: Mexican National Era

- Mexican independence and colonization
- Empresarios and settlement policies
- Rising tensions between Anglo settlers and Mexico

Unit 4: Texas Revolution

- Causes of revolution
- Major battles: Gonzales, the Alamo, Goliad, San Jacinto
- Key figures and documents (Travis, Houston, Santa Anna, Texas Declaration of Independence)

Unit 5: Republic of Texas

- Government, economy, and challenges of the Republic
- Leadership of Sam Houston and Mirabeau Lamar
- Annexation debate and U.S. statehood

Unit 6: Early Statehood and the Mexican-American War

- Annexation into the United States
- Causes and effects of the Mexican-American War
- Early growth of slavery and expansion

Unit 7: Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas

- Texas' role in secession and the Confederacy
- Battles in Texas and civilian impact
- Reconstruction policies and resistance

Unit 8: Late 19th Century Texas

- Cattle drives and ranching economy

- Railroads and urbanization
- Immigration and cultural changes

Unit 9: Texas in the 20th Century

- Oil boom and industrialization
- Texas during World Wars I & II
- Civil Rights Movement in Texas
- Political and social changes

Unit 10: Contemporary Texas

- Modern Texas economy and technology
 - Role of Texas in U.S. and world affairs
 - Texas culture and diversity today
 - State and local government
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Instructional Methods

- Direct instruction, interactive lectures, and class discussions
 - Analysis of primary and secondary sources
 - Group projects and cooperative learning activities
 - Writing assignments and research projects
 - Technology integration and map/graph analysis
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Assessment Methods

- Unit tests and quizzes
 - Document-based questions (DBQs)
 - Class projects and presentations
 - Daily work and participation
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Course Materials

- Interactive notebook or binder
 - Writing utensils, highlighters, and colored pencils
 - Access to online resources as assigned
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Classroom Expectations

1. Be prepared with materials and assignments.
2. Respect yourself, your peers, and your teacher.
3. Participate actively and responsibly.
4. Follow school policies and procedures.
5. Strive for excellence and growth.