

7th Grade World History

Teacher Information:

John Rutherford

7th & 8th Grade History

Email: rutherfordj@rcschool.net – I return emails within 24 hours on school days.

Phone: (423) 272-7651 Ext. 1126 – Calls during class hours go to voicemail.

Planning Period: 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Class Overview:

Seventh grade social studies is a comprehensive exploration of the social, cultural, geographic, political, and technological changes that reshaped the world after the fall of Rome. Students begin with the Byzantine Empire and travel across medieval Europe, the Islamic world, China and Japan, the kingdoms of West Africa, and the great civilizations of the Americas — encountering the Black Death, the Mongols, Mansa Musa's gold, the cities of the Aztec and Inca, and the artists and thinkers of the Renaissance. The year concludes with the Age of Exploration and the first European contact with the Americas in the 1400s and 1500s.

Class Calendar:

- *Please note that dates below are subject to change.*
- Complete list of state standards for social studies may be found online at:
https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/ss/Social_Studies_Standards.pdf

August/September: Byzantine Empire 400 - 1500s CE (7.12 - 7.14) Middle Ages in Western Europe 400 - 1500s CE (7.27 - 7.39)

September: Middle Ages in Western Europe 400 - 1500s CE (7.27 - 7.39)

October: Southwest Asia and North Africa 400 - 1500s CE (7.15 - 7.20) East Asia 400 - 1500s CE (7.01 - 7.11)

November/December: Indigenous Civilizations of the Americas 1400 - 1700's CE (7.53 - 7.57)

January/February: Early Modern Europe, Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution 1400 - 1700's CE (7.40 - 7.52)

March: The Age of Exploration 1400 - 1700's CE (7.58 - 7.65)

April: Wrap-up, Review, Testing

May: Final Project

Final Project:

The month of May will primarily be devoted to a research project covering Colonization of the Americas. Students will work on the majority of the project in class.

Required Materials:

- Composition Book (this is our interactive notebook and stays in class; please replace it when full)
- 3 Ringed Binder
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils

Grading Scale:

Student's class average will be determined by grades in the following areas:

- Daily Work: 25%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Tests/Projects: 35%
- Notebook Checks: 10%

Students will have ample opportunity to complete daily work in class, but those assignments become homework if not completed during that time. The dates of quizzes and tests will be communicated ahead of time to allow students to prepare.

Retakes: Quizzes may be retaken for a higher grade as many times as needed, up until the day before the unit test, as long as all work for that unit has been turned in. The highest score earned is the one recorded. Unit tests are not retaken.

Late Work: Assignments turned in late will receive a maximum grade of 70%. Late work is accepted until the day before that unit's test. Work missed due to an excused absence is not penalized — students have one day per day absent to make it up.

Checking Grades: Grades are updated weekly in SkyWard. Please reach out any time a grade doesn't look right — I would much rather hear from you early than at the end of a grading period.

School Wide Grading Scale:

- 95-100: A
- 86-94: B
- 76-85: C
- 70-75: D
- 0-69: F

** Please note, the syllabus is subject to change at any time. Students and parents will be notified of any changes as soon as they occur.*