SPU 6th Grade Humanities
Syllabus 2026 - 2027

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Supplies

Students will need one spiral notebook 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.

Overview of English Language Arts (ELA)

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 History, students study the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome, focusing on how geography, culture, government, religion, and innovations shaped each society. Throughout the year, they develop skills in analyzing primary sources, comparing cultures, and connecting the past to the present. These goals are taught through a mix of class discussions, hands-on projects, map work, group activities, readings, and technology-based resources that make history engaging and meaningful.

Overview of Writing

This course is designed to strengthen students' writing skills while developing their ability to communicate ideas clearly, effectively, and purposefully. Students will explore and practice a variety of writing forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and argumentative writing, while learning the writing process from planning and drafting through revision and editing. Students will also develop critical-thinking, research, and reading skills to analyze information and support their ideas with credible evidence. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and provides students with a strong foundation for successful academic writing across subject areas.

Curriculum

English Language Arts: In 6th grade, we use the HMH Collections program to build reading, writing, and thinking skills through a variety of engaging texts. Each unit, called a "collection," is centered on a big idea and includes both fiction and nonfiction selections, along with poetry, drama, and multimedia. Students practice reading closely to understand what texts really mean, learn how to find evidence to support their ideas, and write in different styles and formats. The program also helps students grow as speakers and listeners through discussions and presentations. With a mix of classic and modern texts, Collections is designed to spark curiosity, strengthen literacy skills, and make real-world connections.

Accelerated Reader (AR): Accelerated Reader is used to support independent reading in middle school. Each student will have a trimester goal that will count toward their grade. Students should read 15-30 minutes daily, bring their AR books to school each day, and take tests at school. Participation points will also count toward their grades. Please encourage your child to read at home every day.

History: Sixth grade Social Studies with McGraw Hill explores the development of human society from early beginnings through major ancient civilizations. Students study geography skills and mapping, then investigate how early humans lived and how farming led to the rise of civilizations. Major units include Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome, with emphasis on how geography, culture, government, religion, and innovations shaped each society. Throughout the year, students practice analyzing primary sources, comparing cultures, and making connections between the past and the world today.

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.

89.5%-100% A 80-89.4% B 70-79.4% C 60%-69.4% D 0-59.4% 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 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.

Acknowledgement

Please sign and return to your teacher no later than:
Friday, August 28, 2026

I have read and understand the humanities syllabus and discussed it with my parents/guardians. I understand what is expected of me and agree to follow the classroom procedures and policies as outlined.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____ Class Cohort: _____

I have reviewed the syllabus for my child's class and understand the expectations, policies, and procedures. I agree to support my child's success by encouraging responsibility, communication, and academic integrity.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____