SPU Humanities Syllabus
2026- 2027

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Supplies

Students will need one spiral notebook **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
- ☐ 3 highlighters
- ☐ 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:
8th Grade History- McGraw Hill provides a comprehensive, standards-aligned curriculum that begins with the Age of Exploration and continues through key events and eras in U.S. history up to the modern age.

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 can still submit work for full credit upon return. 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.

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

This course takes students on a chronological journey through early American history, beginning with the Age of Exploration and concluding in the early 1900s. Students will explore the cultural, political, economic, and geographic forces that shaped the United States, developing a deep understanding of how the nation was founded and how it grew. Throughout the course, students will analyze primary and secondary sources, participate in discussions and complete projects that build historical thinking skills. Emphasis will be placed on cause and effect, multiple perspectives, and making connections between past and present.

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.

Please sign and return the next page

Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Student Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the syllabus for this course. I understand what is expected of me and agree to follow the classroom procedures and policies as outlined.

Student Name (printed): _____
Student Signature: _____
Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

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: _____