SPU 7th Grade 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.

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

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: 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.

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:
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.

Grading Policies

Academic Grade:

The academic grades are based on student work, assessments, and participation. A greater emphasis is placed on tests and quizzes, as they show 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% B 70-79% C 60%-69% D 0-59% 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.

Please sign and return the next page

San Pasqual Union School District
The Little School in the Valley

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: _____

Signed form due Aug 28, 2026