

## **Course Description For Social Studies**

Seventh grade Social Studies is World Geography. I intend to cover not just the “old style” geography; mountains, rivers, oceans, etcetera, but I intend to not only cover those items, but also cover how the geography of the world has affected the development of countries and world events.

To this end we will be doing:

1. Power Point presentations
2. Latitude and Longitude assignments
3. Research Papers
4. Map research

Textbooks will be kept in the room. Students will receive handouts, and assignments directing their outside research activities. There will be much done and researched on the computer and internet, (sites directing the net research will be provided). Students have access to computers in class and all day at school in the various classes. They may come in before school, during seminar, and after school to receive help. If a student is experiencing difficulties with a particular assignment, they should say something. As soon as they make me aware of the problem, or I become aware of the problem in some fashion, I will assign them to report to me during Seminar for extra help. All assignments are to be word processed and I prefer emailed to me. My school email address is [Firstname.Lastname@am.dodea.edu](mailto:Firstname.Lastname@am.dodea.edu). I can and do access this from home, so work completed over a weekend will be received and corrected over the weekend also. Receiving work in this manner is more expedient and eliminates “lost work”, “forgotten work”, and the infamous “Oh Yeah, it is in my locker work”.

### **Late Work**

Late work will be accepted for one (1) week past the due date. Work will loose 10 point per day for each day late. Students should make every effort to turn work in on time, however if a situation is presented where by the student needs additional time, they should avail themselves of their Seminar for the extra help and the time to work on the assignment.

## Grading Policy

There will be 5 categories of grades:

- 1) **Participation 10% of Grade;** This grade will be given based on how well each child participates and contributes to the classroom discussion. Their participation will indicate to me that they have read the material, have a basic understanding of what they read and are ready to talk about it. Not understanding the material and asking questions about it is also very good. This allows me to help them understand the material. The only thing I don't want is someone to just sit there. I want all children to take an active role in their learning.
- 2) **Homework 15% of grade;** Written homework will be assigned from time to time, but not continuously. I will limit the amount of homework to no more than 4 or 5 questions over the reading assignment. The only time I will exceed the 4 to 5 questions is in preparation for a test or quiz. Generally, the review type of homework will be taken directly from the review section at the end of the Chapters. I much prefer the child read, understand and discuss the material.
- 3) **Quizzes 20% of grade;** Quizzes will be done as part of an ongoing assessment. These will be over selected sections of chapters or sections of the book. I do not expect these to occur with regularity.
- 4) **Tests 25% of grade;** Tests will be given at the end of each major section or chapter. Students will be informed of the material to be tested and reviewed on the exact questions prior to the test. Student in class will decide on the number of questions and the breakdown of the types of questions.
- 5) **Performance Tasks 30% of grade;** DODEA specifies 5 performance tasks be completed. These are long and complicated assignments, sometime time requiring the student to work alone while at other times requiring the student to work in a group. Due to the limited number of these, their complexity, and the amount of time required to properly prepare the assignment, they are graded higher than anything else

## **Classroom Management**

All classroom situations run best if there are clearly defined rules, expectations, and consequences. The students have been actively engaged in defining the rules they believe their particular class setting should be run by.

Parent involvement is critical to student success and as such has been incorporated into the management plan fully. The rules and consequences are in compliance with stated school rules on pages 15 to 32 of the handbook.

1. First Offense; Student will be corrected by the teacher
2. Second Offense: Student will be counseled by teacher
3. Third Offense; Student will be reprimanded by the teacher and may have their seat changed. Parent contacted by Email, Phone Call, Note in Agenda Book.
4. Fourth Offense: Student will be assigned a lunch detention, and parent again contacted by Email, Phone Call, Note in Agenda Book
5. Fifth Offense: Student will be referred to the principal's office.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Studies  
Classroom Rules**

1. Respect Others
2. Do not interrupt others while they are speaking
3. Enter Class Quietly for Attendance
4. Be Prepared for Class