



SEVENTH GRADE COURSE INFORMATION AND EXPECTATIONS

Ms. Haggerty

Room 148

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I. Course Overview:

In this course, three regions around the world will be put in focus: Latin America, and Europe and Russia. Within each region, we will be concentrating on three themes - Geography, History, and Culture. Additionally, current events will be discussed and connected to our units of study.

II. Overall Course Objectives:

- Create and answer historical questions based on new and old information
- Develop reading and writing skills
- Analyze and evaluate primary and secondary source materials
- Examine the relationship between people and geography
- Connect the past and present
- Develop an understanding of global themes within social studies

III. Wheeler Academic Expectations met by this course:

- Students will be able to communicate effectively.
- Students will be able to collaborate effectively.
- Students will be able to analyze effectively.
- Students will be able to demonstrate proficient literary skills.

For this class, the **analysis** criterion will be evaluated six times throughout the year and recorded in PowerSchool.

IV. Materials

- 1" 3-ring binder for Social Studies Only
- 5-section dividers
- White lined paper
- Pencils
- Index cards

Your Binder:

- An organized binder is one of the keys to success in this class.
- Materials such as handouts, class notes, homework, tests and quizzes should be 3-hole punched and kept in your binder in chronological order.
- You may want to keep an extra binder at home in order to put past units in.

V. Class/Behavioral Expectations:

- Students should come to class on time and prepared to learn. Classroom routines and procedures have been handed laid out on a specific handout that should be kept in student social studies binders.
- School rules as stated in the handbook apply at all times.
- In order to encourage participation and to make sure that routines are being adhered to students will have the opportunity each quarter to reflect. After reflecting on their performance in each category on the classroom responsibility rubric (attached), I will assess them and have a conversation on any area there is a large discrepancy. Students will earn a small quiz grade as a result of their participation, timeliness, regular completion of homework and the respect they demonstrate each quarter. The goal of this additional quiz grade is to reward those who are meeting expectations and to concretely indicate areas in which students can improve.

VI. Attendance Policy – as stated in handbook:

- A maximum of twenty (20) absences (excused or unexcused) will be permitted without academic penalty. Students who exceed the maximum twenty (20) days may be considered for non-promotion. In an effort to inform parents/guardians of the importance of regular school attendance the school will:
 1. Inform the parent/guardian in writing after ten (10) absences are recorded.
 2. A meeting will be scheduled with the parent/guardian after fifteen (15) absences are recorded.
 3. A letter will be sent to the parents/guardians after twenty (20) absences have been recorded indicating that the child may be considered for non-promotion.

VII. Grades:

- Over the quarter you will accumulate points. Your grade will be determined by dividing the number of points you earn by the total number of points possible
- Quarter grades consist of a combination of unit exams (multiple choice, document based questions, essays), quizzes/vocabulary quizzes (both announced and unannounced), DBQ (document-based question) essays, and homework assignments.
- Your grades will reflect your performance AND your effort, so make sure that your assignments are done properly, neatly, completely, and on time.
- Tests should be completed in a timely manner following absences per the school attendance policy.
- “Re-dos and Retakes” may be offered at teacher discretion after student led conversation.
- Excessively late assignments will result in point deductions. If work is handed in from a previous unit it may not be accepted.
- Parents/Guardians will be asked to sign larger assignments so they can discuss their student’s performance and contact me with any questions.
- Grades can be found online in Powerschool.

Homework:

- Homework will either reinforce work done in class that day, or it will prepare for work to be done in class the following day (the day which it is due). Homework will not be given daily.
- Homework may consist of summaries, outlines, exit tickets, worksheets or other writing assignments.
- Because homework relates to current class work, late homework will receive a grade reduction. (Unless you are absent or have discussed an exceptional circumstance with your teacher).

VIII. MS Academy

The faculty and administration will monitor all Wheeler Middle School students regularly. If students appear on the D and F list they will be asked to participate in MS Academy in an effort to bring their grades up. If their absences have brought their grade down, they will be given opportunities to make up work they missed due to those absences. Some of these MS Academy opportunities will take place on half days where high school students have exams and middle school students typically have early release days. Instead, students will be asked to stay for full days to make up work should the faculty deem necessary. All parents and guardians will be notified if students are required to stay after school on early release days due to being assigned in MS Academy.

IX. Academic Integrity Statement:

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.

Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension.

X. Communication

- Email: haggertyk@northstonington.k12.ct.us
- Use email to ask questions, arrange appointments, or to share interesting research. **Please do not email assignments unless told to do so.**
- I can be reached via Remind as well. Students are encouraged to ask questions, however be sure they are appropriate. **Messages may not be answered immediately, especially if sent late in the evening.**
- Weekly emails from the seventh grade team will contain updates about assignments as well as current topics of study.

Google Classroom:

I will be using Google Classroom this year. Using this free resource, students will be better able to access class materials when absent, seek quick review of drafts and feedback on assignments. In order to utilize this resource they do need a Gmail account. Many students have them already. For students that do not I would be happy to assist in creating an account with parent permission.

I do _____

I do not _____

Give my child permission to set up a Gmail account

XI. Extra Help

I will be available for students whenever possible for extra help. To avoid any conflicts with my availability, please see me at least **two days in advance** to schedule a time after school to meet. Students are/will be encouraged to speak to me before or after class, or during FLEX to discuss matters of assistance after school. During FLEX (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) students will be able to visit teachers for additional help on any assignment or concept. I will be staying after school for a minimum of an hour and a half everyday and I can stay longer depending on the needs of the student(s). There will be scheduled review days before exams.

I have read the course outline and fully understand what is expected in Social Studies 7. If I have any questions, I will speak with my teacher as soon as possible.

An additional note:

This year in Social Studies your student will be examining defining moments and events in World History. In order to illustrate and express the many facets of History the class will be exposed to a variety of materials, including news articles, book excerpts, documentaries and film. Some of these materials may contain mild adult language and violence (all will be edited to be appropriate for young ears and eyes). Students will be given advanced notice and allowed to leave if they find a particular clip to be upsetting. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 353-0377.

I do _____

I do not _____

Give my child permission to view items deemed appropriate for the classroom by Ms. Haggerty

I acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus and expectations. If I have any questions I will contact Ms. Haggerty for further discussion.

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| Student Name (Print) | |
| Student Signature | |
| Parent Name (print) | |
| Parent Signature (print) | |