

8th Grade Social Studies - Mr. Clark

Email: jclark@jajags.com

Rooms: 239 (A and B Block); 238 (D Block)

Drop-in Help Times: 7:30-8:10 a.m.; 3:20-3:50 p.m.

Website: www.clark.jajags.com

Mission Statement:

The mission of this class is to encourage students' growth as responsible, knowledgeable, and curious members of society.

In This Class:

Have you ever looked at the world today and wondered just exactly how we got here?

Social studies is the story of humankind. In eighth grade, we will focus on world revolutions. By looking at times and places where rapid change happened, we can better understand why things change throughout history and why our society is facing the issues that it faces today. We'll learn together through a combination of reading actual documents from the revolutions that we study, analyzing maps and graphs, taking notes during lectures and videos, historical simulations, and classroom discussion.

Grading Policy:

Unit Exams/Big Assignments:	40%
Daily Assignments/Group Work:	40%
Class Discussion/Participation:	10%
Final Exam	10%

The grading scale used will be:

- A = 90% and up
- B = 89% - 80%
- C = 79% - 70%
- D = 69% - 60%
- F = 59% and lower

An “A” grade on an assignment means that you fully understood the subject and went above and beyond in your effort.

A “B” grade on an assignment means that you mostly understood the subject and showed a strong effort.

A “C” grade on an assignment means that you somewhat understood the subject and displayed average effort.

A “D” grade on an assignment means you don’t quite understand the subject yet or that your effort could have been stronger.

A “F” grade on an assignment means that you don’t understand the subject yet or that your effort could have been much stronger.

***Use your best writing skills. I expect you to use complete sentences, to capitalize proper nouns, and correct spelling and grammar. This will be part of your grade.**

Classroom Procedures:

- **Entering the classroom:** Please wait until I am at the door to greet you before you enter the room. Once you’re inside, head to your seat and check the daily agenda. Get ready for class by taking out your pencil and notebook.
- **Giving instructions:** I will count down from 3 on my fingers when I need your attention. Please finish your conversations and get ready to listen to my directions.
- **Speaking in class:** Please raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking.
- **Discussion:** Please talk at a reasonable volume so that every group can hear. Listen respectfully to all speakers in the classroom. Please use respectful language at all times.
- **Taking notes:** When watching a video or listening to a lecture, please take notes by hand in a spiral notebook. This will help you to remember the material and to keep your notes organized in one place.
- **Work time:** You will have time to work on your assignments during class. Use this time wisely and you will have very little homework. Goofing off will result in consequences.
- **Turning in work:** Turn in paper assignments to the folder in the crate by my desk. Turn in online assignments on Canvas. Assignments are due at the start of the next class.
- **Absences:** Please see me when you get back to school to see what you missed. You have two days for every day you miss to make up your work after an excused absence.
- **Tardies:** Come in quietly and try to get started. See me later to find out what you missed. Parents and administrators will be informed of repeated tardies per school policy.
- **Late Work:** Late assignments will not be accepted for credit. If an emergency prevents you from finishing your work on time, please email me and ask for an extension.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else's work without giving them credit. Plagiarism does not help you learn and will not be tolerated. Do not copy another student's work, use internet sources without citing them, or let another student copy your work. The minimum consequence for plagiarism is loss of credit for that assignment and an email sent home.
- **Food/Drink:** Water bottles with a closable lid are allowed. Please don't eat or drink other food or drinks in class without permission.
- **Restrooms:** Give me a "thumbs up" to ask to go to the bathroom. Only one student may leave the classroom to use the restroom at a time.
- **Electronic Devices:** Put your cellphone in the hanger by the door. Use your laptop computer only for assigned schoolwork during class. If I see you using your device for something besides school work, I will take it for the rest of class.
- **Dismissal:** Please wait until I tell you to write down your homework and pack up, then quietly pack up your supplies and sit at your desk until I dismiss you.
- **Contact:** The best way to reach me is through email (jclark@jajags.com).

Classroom Rules and Behavior Policy:

1. Be prepared to learn.
2. Participate.
3. Please do not interrupt others.
4. Follow directions the first time they are given.
5. Treat others with respect.

Consequence Scale:

- 1st mistake: Verbal warning/discussion
- 2nd mistake: Lunch detention or Friday after school detention
- Repeated mistakes: Individual conference with parents/guardians and administrators to develop an individual behavior plan.

Rewards for Exceptional Positive Behavior:

- Verbal praise
- A grab from the mystery prize bag
- Raise-a-grade coupon

Required Materials:

- 3 ring binder or folder
- Spiral notebook
- Daily assignment planner
- Pencil or blue/black pen
- A laptop computer

Honors:

- As a staff at Jefferson Academy, we know that there are many students who want to challenge themselves in class and earn additional recognition for their effort. The honors designation in social studies is a special recognition of success available to any student that completes the following requirements:
 - An average score of 93% or above on all daily work and tests.
 - No more than 2 missing assignments.
 - No incidents of academic dishonesty.
 - Consistent participation in lessons and classroom culture.

Course Schedule:

Unit:	Topic:
1	Neolithic Revolution
2	American Revolution
3	French Revolution
4	Haitian Revolution
5	Industrial Revolution
6	Russian Revolution
7	Cuban Revolution
8	Chinese Cultural Revolution
9	Iranian Revolution
10	End of Apartheid in South Africa

Course Structure:

Each unit of study is made up of about 5 to 6 class periods. At the end of each unit, I will give you a study guide and we will review the unit together in class before you take a test. Please check Canvas throughout each unit for due dates and links to copies of your assignments.

Contact Information, and Acknowledgement:

-I have read and understand Mr. Clark's classroom policies and procedures for 8th grade social studies.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Fill out the info below to ensure I have your correct contact information:

Parent Name: _____ Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone # _____ Parent Phone #: _____

Parent Email _____ Parent Email: _____