

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History Syllabus**  
**TRCS 2011-12**  
**Instructor: Emily D. Oliapuram**

Course Description:

This course will study the history of the Americas chronologically from 1500 – 1877. Students will be encouraged to use their own life experiences and their surroundings in NYC as a tool of exploration of understanding themes in U.S. history. This class seeks to incorporate both individual and group work as well as written, verbal, and artistic forms of expression as a means of synthesizing subject information.

Marking Period 1:

Topics Covered:

- Geography
- Native Americans prior 1500
- European Exploration of the America
- New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies
- Slavery

Marking Period 2:

Topics Covered:

- Causes of the American Revolution
- American Revolution
- Constitution
- Bill of Rights

Marking Period 3:

Topics Covered

- Life In a New Nation
- Causes of the Civil War

Marking Period 4:

Topics:

- Civil War
- Reconstruction
- Review for Final

Notes:

1. This breakdown of topics is a broad plan for the year and is subject to revision based on the needs of the class.
2. See Back for Grading Policy

**TRCS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies**  
**20011-12 Grading Policy**  
**Instructor: Emily Oliapuram**

**Homework (25%)**

**Classwork (25%)**

Preparation and contribution to class work  
Shared inquiry  
Social studies notebook

**Projects (25%)**

**Exams/Writing Assignments (25%)**

1. Homework

Daily homework assignments

These assignments will be checked at the beginning of class. Homework is graded using the criteria of how fully you engaged the assignment, how neat your work is, and if your responses are in full sentences (grammatically correct), and effort. Late homework is not accepted. If you are absent it is your responsibility to show me the homework from the day(s) you were absent. You are also responsible to make up any homework you missed and hand it in the following day.

2. Class work

Preparation and contribution to class work- will be evaluated using numerous criteria. You need to have all supplies (books/handouts/pens) necessary in order to fully participate in the day's work. I will also evaluate you by how fully you participate and contribute to both whole class and small group discussions/work.

Shared Inquiry – This small group discussion model will be utilized consistently throughout the class. You will have an opportunity to look at various texts and documents in detail. Please refer to the rubric for specifics of how you will be evaluated for these discussions.

Social Studies Notebook – Once a marking period I will check your notebook to make sure that you have included all the information we have covered during our class sessions. This includes writing prompts/assignments, class notes, and handouts which are to be attached into the notebook. Specifically I will be looking for organization, how fully you completed the assignments, and neatness. Make up of work in the notebooks is not accepted. In other words, if you do not submit your notebook you will receive a failing grade for this portion of the class.

3. Projects

Once a marking period you will be given a major project to complete. While you are given some time in class to work on it you will be expected to spend time outside of class working on the assignment. Some projects will be individual and others will be involve working with a partner or a group. It is your responsibility to make sure that you and your group members arrange to meet outside of class. With advance notice, I will be available to supervise groups who would like to stay after school to work on their projects.

4. Exams and Writing Assignments

Over the course of the marking period you will typically be taking one to two exams. These exams will be taken after studying completing a particular unit. These exams may include any of the following: multiple choice, short answers, or extended response document based questions. You will be informed prior to the exam what type of information you will be expected to produce.

Writing will be an integral part of this social studies course. In addition to writing regularly in class, you will be asked from time to time to show your knowledge of a particular unit of study through the writing of a document based essay. This piece will be written in class and you will be using a series of documents to formulate an historical argument. We will study and practice this method of writing in class.