

Course: Honors Global Studies-Eight Grade
Instructor: Dr. Pamela Smith

Course Description: An examination of the world's geography, history, and cultures from ancient to modern times.

Course Objectives and Philosophy

Throughout the year, students will examine geography and culture from American and global perspectives. The text presents the world studies in two parts. During the first half of the year students will focus on ancient world geography and culture in order to investigate the role geography plays in creating regional cultures, economies, and identities. Students will study the Middle Ages through modern times during the second half of the year. Each student will strive to be an active reader to better analyze and interpret ideas, master the skill of organizing details to support main ideas, comprehend primary and secondary materials, learn to handle larger amounts of materials, and express herself clearly and persuasively via oral and written reports. Overall, the student must demonstrate independent and studious work habits and growth to prepare for future honors courses.

Course Requirements

1. Text
2. Large 3-ring binder
3. Work done in blue or black pen
4. Materials for research project visual (poster board, for example)

Grading Procedure

Your trimester grade will be determined by the following combination of assessment measures.

Tests: 60%

Research Projects: 30%

Homework: 10%

The mid-year cumulative exam will count as 10% of the final grade.

The final cumulative exam will count as 15% of the final grade.

The school's incomplete late work policy will be strictly enforced.

Grading Scale

A- to A+	90-100
B- to B+	80-89
C- to C+	70-79
D- to D+	60-69
F	0-59

Homework Policy

Homework is a very significant component of the learning process. Students must observe the following policies to remain in good standing in this class.

1. There are usually daily homework (reading/writing) assignments.

2. Two projects will be done each trimester. Instructions for the various components of the research projects will be provided in a separate handout. Students will have some class time for research, as this is a middle school. However, you are also responsible for making time in your schedule to prepare the project.
3. Whether working on a short-term or extended assignment, it is important that you do this on a daily basis.
4. Short-term assignments will be checked simply to see that they have been completed. Failure to do so results in assignment to Academic Help. A homework collection of these assignments should be stored in your 3-ring binder. This will be submitted for a more thorough evaluation after a test that covers the material. The school's grading policy regarding late or missing assignments, as outlined in the student handbook, will be strictly enforced.
5. Since class time is limited, all the material on the syllabus cannot be covered during lectures and class discussions. Students are responsible for all material assigned as textbook readings.
6. All submitted assignments must begin with the student's name, the date, the class title, and the period. Those assignments must be neat, complete, and written in blue or black ink. Of course, typed assignments are welcomed, but proper format must be followed.
7. When returned, homework and tests are to be stored in your 3-ring binder.
8. Study groups can be effective. However, when a student submits an assignment, she is stating that the material submitted has been fully comprehended. Therefore, joint submission and plagiarism are unacceptable.

Classroom Policies

1. Daily prepared attendance is mandatory.
2. You are solely responsible for any material covered or announcements made during your absence.
3. The school's attendance policy will be strictly enforced.
4. Inappropriate, disrespectful, or dishonest behavior is unacceptable.
5. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for that assignment.

Texts: World Studies: The Ancient World. Boston: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.
World Studies: Medieval Times to Today. Boston: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.
Rand McNally Notebook World Atlas. May, 2005.

Welcome to the classroom. Please do not hesitate to ask questions—regardless of how simple you may perceive them to be. Work hard and take pride in all that you do.

Tentative Honors Global Studies Schedule

First Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	1	All	Beginnings of Human Society
2	1	All	Beginnings of Human Society
3	2	All	The Fertile Crescent
4	2	All	The Fertile Crescent
5	3	All	Ancient Egypt and Nubia; Oral Presentations
6	3	All	Ancient Egypt and Nubia
7	3	All	Ancient Egypt and Nubia
8	4	All	Ancient India
9	4	All	Ancient India
10	4	All	Ancient India; Oral Presentations
11	5	All	Ancient China

Second Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	5	All	Ancient China
			Thanksgiving Break
2	6	All	Ancient Greece
3	6,7	All	Ancient Greece; Ancient Rome
4	7	All	Ancient Rome
			Winter Break
5	1	All	Byzantine and Muslim Civilizations; Oral Presentations
6	1	All	Byzantine and Muslim Civilizations
7	2	All	Civilizations of Africa
8	2	All	Civilizations of Africa
9			Review; Mid-Year Cumulative Exam
10	3	All	Early Civilizations of the Americas
11	3	All	Early Civilizations of the Americas; Oral Presentations
12	4	All	Civilizations of Asia

Third Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	4	All	Civilizations of Asia
2	5	All	Europe in the Middle Ages
			Spring Break
3	5	All	Europe in the Middle Ages
4	5	All	Europe in the Middle Ages
			Easter Break Friday 4/2 – Monday 4/5
5	6	All	A New Age in Europe; Oral Presentations
6	6	All	A New Age in Europe
7	6	All	A New Age in Europe
8	7	All	Changes in the Western World
9	7	All	Changes in the Western World; Oral Presentations
10	8	All	Modern Times
11	NA		Catch Up
12			Review; Final Cumulative Exam

Global Studies Outline

I. The Ancient World

A. The Beginnings of Human History

1. Geography and History
2. Prehistory
3. The Beginnings of Civilization

B. The Fertile Crescent

1. Land between Two Rivers
2. Babylonia and Assyria
3. The Legacy of Mesopotamia
4. Mediterranean Civilizations
5. Judaism

C. Ancient Egypt and Nubia

1. Geography of the Nile
2. Rivers of Egypt
3. Egyptian Religion
4. Ancient Egyptian Culture
5. Cultures of Nubia

D. Ancient India

1. Indus and Ganges River Valleys
2. Hinduism in Ancient India
3. Beginnings of Buddhism
4. Maurya Empire

E. Ancient China

1. Geography of China's River Valleys
2. Confucius and His Teachings
3. Warring Kingdoms Unite
4. Achievements of Ancient China

F. Ancient Greece

1. Early Greek Civilization
2. Religion, Philosophy, and the Arts
3. Daily Life in Athens
4. Sparta and Athens
5. Spread of Greek Culture

G. Ancient Rome

1. The Roman Republic
2. The Roman Empire
3. Roman Daily Life
4. Christianity and the Roman Empire
5. The Fall of Rome

II. Medieval Times to Today

A. Byzantine and Muslim Civilization

1. The Byzantine Empire
2. The Beginnings of Islam
3. The Golden Age of Muslim Civilization

- B. Civilizations of Africa
 - 1. Africa and the Bantu
 - 2. Kingdoms of West Africa
 - 3. East Africa's Great Trading Centers
- C. Early Civilizations of the Americas
 - 1. South America and the Incas
 - 2. Cultures of Middle America
 - 3. Cultures of North America
- D. Civilizations of Asia
 - 1. Golden Ages of China
 - 2. Medieval Japan
 - 3. The Great Mughal Empire in India
- E. Europe in the Middle Ages
 - 1. Feudalism and the Manor System
 - 2. The Church and the rise of cities
 - 3. The Crusades
 - 4. The Power of kings
- F. A New Age in Europe
 - 1. The Renaissance and Reformation
 - 2. The Age of Exploration
 - 3. The Age of Powerful Monarchs
 - 4. Conquests of the Americas and Africa
- G. Changes in the Western World
 - 1. The Enlightenment
 - 2. Political Revolutions
 - 3. The Industrial Revolution
 - 4. Nationalism and Imperialism
- H. Modern Times
 - 1. War and Revolution
 - 2. The Postwar World
 - 3. The World Today