

6th Grade Social Studies Syllabus

Introduction & Values

Welcome to Mr. Podlesni's (that's me) 6th Grade World History Class. I hope to learn quite a bit with you and from you about World History. My expectations for students stem from my History & Civics background. Like any functioning society, there are rules we have to follow and values we have to share to make class work.

- Participation - Education is about what the *student* does. Sitting quietly, avoiding attention, and watching the clock run out is NOT the way to learn. We need to think, learn, debate, and discuss.
- Respect – At the same time, society and school would be chaos if we didn't respect each other. All human beings deserve respect including yourself, your peers, and your teacher. First and foremost, all students should respect their own rights to safety and education.
- Openness - I believe all students should be able to question authority. You should be willing and able to ask me questions about decisions regarding classroom rules and procedures, and I should be willing and able to respond with sound reasoning. I will follow any rule that I set for you, unless the responsibilities of my position as a teacher require otherwise.

Class Materials

Each student needs pens, a dry erase marker, and simple art supplies. This is on the 6th grade specific class list.

Discipline

Class discipline comes straight from my expectations. For minor infractions, all students will get three warnings. The first is minor, no big deal. It's saying, "you stepped over the line a little, pull back." The second may result in a brief conference in the hallway. The 3rd warning will result in a write up and message to your parents. I will show you the message to your parents before I send it, and ask for your input.

Bathroom Policy

Unless leaving the class is disruptive or students will miss something important, students may go to the bathroom or get a drink once per period, one at a time, with teacher permission.

How do I boost my grade? - Extra Credit, Missing Work, Late Work, Retakes

- Extra credit will be rare in general, and will not be available upon request.
- Missing work will be scored with a 0 as per school policy. This will be replaced with the appropriate grade after it is turned in.
- a flat 10% will be taken off late work.
 - Students with an excused absence will have to gather the work on their own, from canvas and the appropriate bin in the classroom. They will have a week to turn in late work

- *There is no guarantee late work will be graded.* I try very hard to grade all latework. Sometimes it doesn't happen. In that case it will be a zero.
- Projects will frequently have group interaction and timeliness components. These parts may not be made up.
- There will be a retake day for any test where the class average is below an 80. Students are responsible for making up work they miss while doing the retake. Students will get whichever grade is higher in the gradebook. This is the best way to bump up your grade.

Grading Weights

I grade on a weighted point-based system. So each category is worth a fixed percentage but with that fixed percentage, different assignments will have a different number of points they're worth. An easy classwork assignment will be worth less than a two day classwork assignment. The grade category weights are:

- Test and Large Projects 45%.
- Quizzes and Small projects 30%
- Classwork and Homework 25%.

Grades in Canvas will not be an accurate reflection of your grade in the class.

How do you grade homework classwork?

Any paragraph writing prompt will be 40% of a classwork assignment. This is graded on a simple checklist.

1. ___ Was there a relevant topic sentence? (8)
2. ___ Were there three details that supported the topic sentence? (12)
3. ___ Did the details include accurate and relevant evidence from the article? (12)
4. ___ Was there a conclusion that synthesized the evidence? (8)

Contacts

I can be contacted by Class Dojo, E-mail, canvas, ~~carrier pigeon~~, or phone. I check class dojo and email at least once a day, normally at the end of the day. I'm rarely by my computer during school. I will normally take a day to respond to longer emails, and may take longer as I consider my response seriously. I try to go digital free on the weekends.

Email: podlest@gcsnc.com, Google Drive Address: podlest@my.gcsnc.com

Units - This is intentionally very high level. Instruction will be changed as necessary to meet student needs.

| Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| Geography, Neolithic Revolution, Mesopotamia, and Egypt | Greece, India, and China. | Rome, Africa. | Indigenous Americans, Middle Ages, Japan & Korea |