Social Studies 8 Student Overview

Teacher Craig Woelke

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Office Hours Lunch times, after school Monday and Thursday.

Class Goals

1. To make Social Studies Fun.
2. To help you understand modern religious and cultural tensions, especially fighting in the Middle East between Jews Muslims and Christians.
3. To show you how the tension between serving God and enlightened thinking is still something we as Christians must carefully pursue.

Class Rules

1. Talk to each other, not just to me, in a way that is orderly and respectful.
2. Listen to each other.
3. Recycle and throw garbage away.
4. Use technology. (explanation required)
5. Don’t touch stuff that does not belong to you.
6. Keep track of your own stuff.
7. Talk to me about problems or concerns.

Grade Breakdown

**Work Completion 10%**

Doing homework and the worksheets I give you is not actually worth that much of your mark. But I have still made it worth something to encourage you to do it. If you consistently complete your work that I give you in class you will receive this 10% in full. The correctness of your answers will not matter it is simply marked as done or not done. I will not check every homework assignment all the time, just some of the time and always without announcement. Late homework is worth nothing. I also reserve the right to make this a binder check.

**Assignments** **50%**

Since assignment are generally more fun and often better indicators of what students can DO. I have decided to make this class heavily weighted towards assignments. Assignments will include visual work, posters, PPTs, timelines, dioramas, comics, brouchures, maps. There will also be oral work, skits, debates, role-plays and presentations. There is also written work, paragraphs, newspapers, research reports, and journals. Assignment grades are often directly proportional to how much time and effort you put into it. So work hard and you will do well. Late assignments will always be accepted. If it is late I will apply a 10% late penalty I will take off 5% for additional late days. I will NOT reduce the mark beyond 75% of its original value. So even if it’s a month late still get it done.

**Tests 25%**

I will give mostly small quizzes to test your knowledge. It will be a maximum of one test or two small quizzes per unit. Multiple choice and a few short answers will be the norm. It will be important to keep notes and an organized binder so that you are prepared for these tests.

**History Fair 15%**

Together with the grade 9 class you will be participating in a history fair. This is the equivalent of a science fair but with social studies content. You will choose a topic related to medieval social studies which you find interesting and explore it in greater detail. You will present your findings to the entire school and have the freedom to show your learning however you see fit.

Units Covered

1. Jesus to the Conversion of Rome. Roman history is the foundation of the middle ages.
2. The Empire Falls A short unit about the fall of Rome.
3. What are Dark Ages Understanding pre-enlightened thinking.
4. The Feudal System How monarchy (kings and Queens) works.
5. Islam and Mohammed Understand the religion and its expansion
6. Troubles in the Middle Ages Crusades, Black Death, 100 years wars, and schisms
7. Renaissance Secularism and individualism makes its impact.
8. Reformation Questioning the religious status quo.
9. Trade and Colonialism (optional) Europe’s relationship with Africa and the East
10. Chinese History (optional) How history influences culture and psychology.