**8th Grade Social Studies Syllabus**

**2020/2021**

**Instructor** Brent Brandenburg

**Room** 201

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**Website** <http://www.husd.org/Domain/1033>

**School Hours** 8:55am – 3:50pm

**Course Description**

Prerequisite: Social Studies - 7

This eighth grade class continues the two year course of American History beginning with the creation of the United States and the background for the writing of the U.S. Constitution. It continues with the events of the Great Depression through present day global issues. This course incorporates the five strands of Social Studies according to the Arizona State Standards. Additional middle school course information can be located at

<http://www.husd.org/cms/lib07/AZ01001450/Centricity/Domain/734/MiddleSchoolCourseGuide.pdf>

**Course Goals**

The goal of the course is to build content knowledge while enhancing reading and writing skills. Students will analyze documents and conduct expository writing tasks based on the Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices and Arizona’s College and Career Readiness Standards (AZCCRS) http://www.azed.gov/azccrs

**Supplies**

The following supplies are ***required*** to have in class **everyday:**

|  |
| --- |
| Spiral notebook (Interactive Notebook)  Pen(blue or black)/pencil  3 – 4 Highlighters |

**Class Expectations**

* BE PUNCTUAL
  + Show up to class on time.
* BE PROMPT
  + Be ready to work when necessary.
* BE PREPARED
  + Have all supplies and work ready when expected.
* BE POLITE
  + Be open and respectful to new ideas shared by the teacher and fellow students.
* BE PRODUCTIVE
  + Utilize your time in and out of class.
* BE POSITIVE
  + Smile and have fun!

**Classroom Management Plan**

Classroom disruptions will be addressed with a progressive plan.

1st incident will result in a verbal discussion.

2nd incident will result in parent contact.

3rd incident will result in an administrative referral.

All HUSD policies outlined in the code of conduct will be honored and enforced. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to review the conduct thoroughly and together. The code of conduct can be accessed at

<http://www.husd.org/cms/lib08/AZ01001450/Centricity/Domain/740/CodeofConduct.pdf>

**Afterschool Detention (ASD)**

After school detention may be assigned due to missing materials, assignments and tardies as determined by the teacher. Written notification will be sent home with students to be signed by the parent and returned the following day. If the form is not returned, discipline action by Administration may occur.

**Working Lunch**

We will be using a working lunch for students that did not complete their homework or fail to meet mastery of the standards 80%. Homework will usually be checked on Friday and the following week each student that failed to complete all assignments will stay in at lunch until they do so. Failure to do so will result in an assigned ASD each day the student fails to come in or complete an assignment.

**Department Tutoring**

Walk in tutoring is available Tuesday mornings from 8:25 am to 8:50am and Thursday afternoons from 3:50 pm to 4:20 pm. Tutoring will be offered by a member of the social studies department in a social studies classroom. Please inform your teacher if you plan on attending a tutoring session at least 1 day in advance. In order to attend tutoring sessions you must be prepared with specific questions and materials.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Per the code of conduct academic dishonesty is defined as: intentionally using information from or property of another without permission to obtain an unfair advantage or receive a grade or score that was not legitimately earned. This includes cheating and plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade and parent contact. Further incidents will be addressed per the code of conduct.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on 80% assessments and 20% class work and home work. Assessments may include but not be limited to quizzes, chapter tests, unit tests, final exams, projects, writing assignments, DBQs (document based questions) and speeches. Class work and home work may include but not be limited to discussion, shoulder assessment, note taking, group collaboration, current event analysis, reading assignments, preparation, prewriting etc. There is no busy work in social studies. Everything we do will be done to prepare for the future; whether it is an upcoming quiz, test, final exam or a necessary skill for high school and beyond.

In addition, the final exam will constitute 20% of the semester grade. Grades will be done on a semester basis with a final exam for semester 1 in December and a final exam for semester 2 in May. The final exam will consist of a multiple choice test worth 10% and a DBQ essay worth 10%.

**Grading Scale and Structure**

**90%-100% = A**

**80%-89% = B**

**70%-79% = C**

**60%-69% = D**

**59% or below = F**

**Assessments**

Quizzes and tests will be scored with a raw score based on the number of points. For example if a test is worth 20 points- 0 wrong will be 20/20 or 100%, 5 wrong will be 15/20 or 75%, etc.

**DBQs**

DBQs or document based questions will be graded on a 4 point proficiency scale.

4/4 will indicate highly proficient or 100% of the points

3/4 will indicate proficient or 90% of the points

2/4 will indicate partial proficiency or 75% of the points

1/4 will indicate limited proficiency or 60% of the points

0/4 will indicate missing

SMS utilizes a modified 50% minimum grading policy. Any ***assignment*** (i.e. projects and homework) submitted by a student that is accepted by a teacher will receive a minimum grade of a 50%. A teacher has the discretion to accept or to not accept assignments from students that do not meet minimum standards of quality academic workmanship and completion.

On all ***assessments*** (i.e. tests, quizzes, etc.) given by a teacher, there is no minimum grading policy. Students will receive the mark/score they earned on the assessment.

Any assignment that has not been submitted or that remains incomplete at the end of the unit of study or two weeks after the original due date (teacher discretion) will be entered as or remain a as a zero in the grade book.

**Re-Dos and Re-Takes**

Criteria for retakes and redo opportunities:

* ALL retakes/redo’s need to be completed in a 2-week window from the date that the assessment was originally given.
* ALL retakes/redo’s will be in written short answer, or essay format (different version than original).
* If a student should choose to retake/redo, they will need to fill out the SMS retake form, have teacher specify the mastery activity, have parents sign off and return to teacher.
* The Social Studies Department states that in order to be eligible to schedule a retake ALL work for the unit must be complete including the study guide.  Then if an additional mastery activity is needed it may be assigned.

**Absences/Missing Assignments**

It is the student’s responsibility to turn in work to the teacher if they are absent the day work is due. If they are absent the day work is assigned they will have as many days as they were absent to make up the work. It is the students responsibility to check the teacher page and to discuss with the teacher any assignments or topics that were missed. All work is due on the due date stated. Any work turned in after the completion of a unit will receive a failing grade.

**Curriculum Overview**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Quarter** | **Main Topic** |
| **1** | **US Government** |
| **2** | **Social Issues & Movements** |
| **3** | **Human Rights**  **Global Terrorism** |
| **4** | **Financial Literacy**  **Media Literacy** |

**Communication**

* If at any time you have a question or concern, please e-mail me at brent.brandenburg@husd.org and I will respond within 24 hours Monday – Thursday and 48 hours Friday - Sunday
* If you would like to meet in person, I would be happy to schedule a meeting before or after school with advanced notice.
* Please check back with my website often as I will update classroom information and grades on a daily basis. The site can be accessed through the district website at husd.org

I have read and understand Mr. Brandenburg’s syllabus:

*(Please Print)*

Student Name (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***This information is kept confidential***

**Student/Parent Information:**

Parent(s) Names: 1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
(include last names, if different)  
 2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) primary email: 1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
 2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) primary contact number: 1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
(include area code)  
 2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student lives with: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Include anything you feel is important for me to know about your child:  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Please return this page by* ***Friday!***