Friends Academy

Seventh Grade Social Studies: Modern World Cultures

Mr. Frazer, Room 206

Course Description: The Seventh grade course is focused on the cultures and geography of the world. We begin the year with a review of world geography and then delve into the meaning of culture, and the different social sciences (economics, history, political science, religious studies, geography, arts, language, daily life and social groups) used to study this vast subject. We will focus on World Religions early on the year and continually return to this topic as it pertains to each area in the world that we study. Then, beginning with Latin America and the Caribbean countries, we commence our journey with units of study on South America, Europe, The Middle East, Africa, India, Asia, and finally Oceania. During our travels we will use a set of important themes to study the people and cultures which exist in these regions and develop an understanding of how these cultures emerged from their interaction with physical surroundings, other people, and historical events. Our studies will place an emphasis on global interdependence, cultural diffusion, and diversity. We will also try to follow emerging events throughout the year by reading, writing, and discussing these topics in class. By examining the daily life of real people around the world, especially young people, our aim is to develop our understanding, acceptance, and celebration of our world’s cultures.

 We will also be focusing on the academic skills needed for success going forward. We will work on note taking and organization, oral presentation, and research paper writing as well as completing projects within a group.

 The main goal for the year is to help students begin to contemplate our study of world cultures as “true social scientists.” I hope each student will find an area of interest which provides them a connection to the material. Rather than be passive receivers of information, students will explore the world through a variety of sources and learn to make their own conclusions by thinking critically about issues facing the world community. I hope to inspire students to individually explore their ideas, share thoughts and opinions with confidence, and always strive to do their best work.

Materials: Geography Alive! TCI 2011

Geography Alive!: Interactive Student Workbook TCI 2011

Students should always be prepared with note paper, pen/pencil and the previous night’s homework. Students will need internet access and will need their Chromebooks in class and charged every day.

Classroom Policy: While expected to follow the general behavior policy for the school, we have also reviewed a list of expectations for World Cultures based on the principles of courtesy, respect, accountability, responsibility, and understanding. Based on these principles it is expected that students will be prepared for class, respect and support one another, be willing to share and listen to ideas of their peers and show proper respect to the cultures we study.

Assessment Methods: Engagement with the materials and creative, evaluative thinking are integral to our work this year. Students will be expected to express both factual knowledge and integration of their own ideas in a number of ways. We will also use various activities to develop map reading skills, oral presentations, and basic study techniques. An emphasis will be place on students to develop their writing skills through essays, as well as through other writing activities. There will be announced map and reading quizzes. There will also be quizzes on some factual information, as well as current events. At the end of each unit of study there will be announced tests.

Students will be evaluated based on their performance in these areas which may often depend on their class participation and behavior. Active listening and verbal contribution are both important keys to success in this course.

Grading Policy: Assignments are worth point s depending on the breadth or depth of the material covered. The number of points will also be made clear to the students when the work is assigned. Homework and graded classwork will range between 4 and 10 points. Quizzes will range from 10 to 30 points, while tests and projects will usually range from 30-50 points. A student’s points will be divided by the total possible points during a grading period to determine the grade. In addition, classroom participation and behavior may be reflected in the student’s overall grade. Additional questions assigned throughout the quarter will offer opportunities for extra credit.

Extra Help: Any student can raise comprehension and grades by seeking extra help from time to time. I will gladly arrange for times to meet with students. 25 minutes of extra help time is in each student’s schedule Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:05 to 11:30. I will also meet with students before or after school, but request a set appointment to make sure I can be there on that specific day.

Homework and Late Work: Homework will be assigned consistently to prepare students for classroom activities, supplement and reinforce classroom work, provide students with skill practice, or provide time to work on long-term projects. Unless otherwise announced, homework will be due on the day following the day it was assigned.

Students have two extra days to turn in assignments for each day of an excused absence. If work is late for an unexcused absence or other reasons it may be turned in for up to week, but each late day will have an increased reduction of points. Students should keep track of their assignments in their plan books. In addition to plan books, homework will be posted daily on the portal.

Finally, if you have any concerns about progress, assignments, or the course itself, please feel free to talk with me. Feel free to call me at the middle school at (516) 629-4840 or e-mail me at dave\_frazer@fa.org .

Student signature Parent Signature