

7th Grade World History and Geography

Mr. Brown – Room 303

Welcome to 7th Grade World History and Geography! I am very excited to have you as a part of my class. My goal is to make this a *fun* and *engaging* class that will provide you with a knowledge of world history along with the skills that you will need in order to succeed in a 21st century learning environment. Please *carefully* and *thoroughly* read the information below.

Course of Study

In this course, students will focus their attention on the California State Standards regarding social, political, religious, economic, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas during ancient, medieval, and early modern times (200 A.D. – 1600 A.D.). In addition, students will focus on the California Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies.

Textbook

World History: Medieval to Early Times; Holt, Rinehart, & Winston Publishers, 2006

Each student will be provided with a textbook which will stay at home. There is a class set of textbooks which will be used at school.

Basic Course Information

- Tests and quizzes will cover material learned through the book, notes, lectures, and class assignments.
- Homework will be assigned 2-3 times per week.
- Students will engage in individual, partner, and group projects.
- Learning activities include focused note taking, presentations, posters, map making, historical investigations, analysis of historical documents, and identifying and making historical claims.
- Collaboration with other students and classroom discussions are important components of the learning environment; as such, your participation in class will be a key to your success.

Classroom Expectations

- Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. These are Townsend's school-wide expectations.
- Come to class on time, prepared, and ready to learn.
- Be courteous and respectful to others at all times.
- Talk only when it is your turn.
- Encourage your classmates to be successful (learning is a team effort!).
- Keep cell phones and other electronic devices turned off and in backpacks.

Disciplinary Action

Students who do not comply with classroom rules and expectations will face the following disciplinary actions:

- Step 1: Verbal warning
- Step 2: Student Self-Check – This provides students an opportunity to reflect on their behavior and plan a course of action for improvement
- Step 3: After-school detention – contact parents/guardians to discuss disciplinary issue(s)
- Step 4: Parent conference
- Step 5: Referral to Assistant Principal

Technological Resources

The use of technology is an important element of learning. As such, we will be using various technological resources in class and at home.

➤ **Aeries Parent/Student Portal**

The Aeries Parent/Student Portal provides parents/guardians and students with instant access to assignments, grades, and overall progress. Parents *and* students will be able to create a login for this website to view grades for each assignment, quiz, and test, as well as the student's overall grade at any given point in time. Instructions for creating and accessing the Aeries Portal can be found on the district website (www.chino.k12.ca.us) under the "Parents" tab. Grades will be updated biweekly.

➤ **Google Classroom**

All assignments, notes, and agenda items will be posted daily on Google Classroom. Each period will receive the class code to join Google Classroom during the first week of school. Parents will also receive an invitation to Google Classroom. Google Classroom is a vital resource, especially when students are absent.

➤ **Student Chromebooks**

Each student will be issued a Chromebook. It is imperative that students follow all Chromebook expectations. Chromebooks should be charged at home daily. However, it is good practice to bring the Chromebook charger to school in the event that the battery dies.

Grading Policy

Each student's overall grade in class is calculated with the following percentages:

Homework/Classwork – 40% Tests/Quizzes/Projects – 60%

It is a school-wide policy that extra credit will not be given. Students who are organized, diligent, and focused will succeed without the need for extra credit.

Students and parents must keep track of student progress on the Aeries Parent/Student Portal. Progress reports will be sent home from the school district every six weeks.

The final letter grade is based on the following:

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

If at any time your student's grade falls below 65%, you will be notified via phone, e-mail, mail, or conference.

Work Habits/Effort/Behavior:

O – Outstanding

S – Satisfactory

N – Needs Improvement

U – Unsatisfactory

Academic Honesty

Copying another student's work (with or without permission), letting a classmate copy, or cheating on an exam is an automatic drop in both work habits and citizenship marks. Academic dishonesty of any type will result in a score of zero for the assignment. In addition, an after-school detention **or** an office referral will be issued to the student. Retaking an exam or redoing an assignment will only be permitted at the teacher's discretion.

Classwork/Homework

- Homework, when assigned, will be written on the board.
- **Students are expected to write down the assignment in their agenda.**
- If a student does not have an agenda, they should write down their homework in an organizer, planner, or even on a simple to-do list.
- Daily assignments and upcoming tests/quizzes will also be posted on Google Classroom.

Late Work

- Assignments not turned in will be marked as missing and receive zero credit.
- Late work will be penalized 20% of its total value. An assignment will be considered late if it is turned in at any point after the day that the assignment was collected in class.
- Consideration will be given to circumstances outside of students' control. In such instances, the 20% penalty may be waived, and students may receive full credit for late assignments.

Absences

- When a student returns from an absence, it is that student's responsibility to check Google Classroom and file(s) in the classroom for homework, handouts, or other assignments that were assigned/distributed during the absence.
- Work must be turned in no later than the number of absent days (ex: if you were absent one day, you have one day to turn in missed homework; if you were absent two days, you have two days to turn in missed homework). Requests can be made to the school office for homework pick-up in the case of an absence lasting 3 or more days.

Supplemental Materials (Movie Clips)

During the school year I plan to use various supplemental video clips to highlight important topics and people we are studying in the course. Board policy and administrative regulations 6161.11 and 6161.12 require parental permission to view any audio/video recording that is not G-rated. The rating is affected by action scenes (minor violence, sword fighting, battle scenes, etc.) Some of these materials are meant to provide more detailed information that is not found in the textbook and will require students to take notes and/or answer questions about the material they view. Other materials are shown to engage students and help them make relevant connections to the historical periods we are studying (in other words, making history fun!). By signing this syllabus, you are granting permission for your student to view these video clips.

*The following materials will generally be shown as short video clips (5 minutes or less).

Disney's The Lion King Gladiator Rome: Engineering an Empire The Dark Ages Ancient Discoveries: Rome Disney's Aladdin Islam: Empire of Faith The Enchanted Horse Tortoise Beats the Hare Mulan What the Ancients Knew: The Chinese Time Life's Lost Civilizations: China The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh Unsolved History: Ninjas Wayne's World Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3 The Last Samurai Lone Survivor Indiana Jones Disney's Robin Hood Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves Robin Hood (Russel Crowe version) Monty Python and the Holy Grail Modern Marvel: Pirate Tech Mr. Roughton (YouTube channel) History Teachers (YouTube channel)	Terry Jones' Medieval Lives Terry Jones' The Crusades Castles and Dungeons Knight's Tale Shrek The Worst Jobs in History (Medieval Europe episodes) Empires: The Medicis Animaniacs (various episodes relating to history topics) Doing Da Vinci (various episodes) Madagascar 3 Luther Secret Files of the Inquisition God's Outlaw: William Tynsdale Empires: Martin Luther The Matrix Ice Age The Road to El Dorado Mystery of the Maya Engineering an Empire: Maya In Search of History: The Aztec Empire Unsolved History: Aztec Temple Columbus: The Lost Voyage Pirates of the Caribbean True Pirates of the Caribbean
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*The following materials will be shown in their entirety with necessary edits to be made appropriate for student audience:

- Mankind: The Story of All of Us (History Channel series)
- Warriors (History Channel series – Samurai & Medieval Knight episodes)

Please review the attached syllabus with your parent/guardian and return this form signed.

I have read this syllabus and understand class expectations & procedures.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Student Name (print)

Class Period

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will respond to all e-mails within 24 hours or the next business day. I am looking forward to a great school year!

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