



6th Grade TAG Social Studies Syllabus

2013-2014 School Year

River Trail Middle School



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Room F112
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Textbook: The World and Its People: Glencoe, 2005 Edition

Replacement Cost: \$57.75

I am asking that you help your child keep this book in good condition. Textbooks need to be covered AT ALL TIMES. Spot checks of textbook covers will be done during the school year. Please do not use any sticky type book cover; fabric or paper works best.

Course Description: The focus of our Social Studies curriculum is centered on themes. These themes will be continued throughout all our regions of study. The course outline is broken down into four major regions of study. Within each region, we will also be looking at specific countries as case studies.

Four Themes of Focus

Geography
Historical Development
Political Systems
Economic Systems

Four Regions of Study

Europe
Canada
Latin America
Australia

Course Requirements: Students will be expected to participate fully in the academic class. This includes any assigned readings, outside work and class discussions as they pertain to the themes being studied. Each student will be responsible for keeping up with a social studies notebook.

The Social Studies curriculum includes an emphasis on critical and higher order thinking, advanced research, literacy, and communication skills. Assignments and projects will be structured to achieve this emphasis. Short and long term planning will be vital for student success.

Communication: It is important for your child's academic and behavioral success to stay in touch with his or her teachers. Communication may include your child's agenda, notes home, phone calls, e-mail, or conferences. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if there are any concerns about your child. I can be reached at the school or my e-mail address, chambersma@fultonschools.org. If you have not received a response from me within 24 hours, please resend the original email. Also, please include your child's name in the subject line of any email correspondence that you send me.

Grading: Grading for this class is based on a point system and follows the Fulton County Academic Grading Scale. Each assignment is given a point value based on one of three grading categories. A rubric or checklist will be used so that students know what is expected for longer assignments and projects. Late assignments will be accepted, however there will be 10% deducted each day it is late.

Major Assessments (Tests/Projects/Presentations)	40%
Minor Assessments (Quizzes)	35%
Class work/Homework/Participation	25%

Probationary Status: According to the Gifted Program Services procedures manual, a student who has an average below an 80 at the 9-week mark or at the end of a semester in any TAG class is automatically placed on probation. Probation may last for as little as a nine-week period but no more than one semester. Students who do not show improvement after a period of time on probation are dismissed from the specific TAG class in which an 80 was not maintained.

Academic Honesty: The Fulton County Board of Education has always expected its students to practice academic honesty. The Student Academic Integrity policy states: "**The Board of Education regards academic honesty as a cornerstone of its educational mission. Cheating will not be tolerated in this school system.**" Examples of cheating, e.g., copying or "borrowing" from another source and submitting it as one's own work; seeking or accepting unauthorized assistance on tests or assignments; altering or forging grades, grade books, progress reports, report cards, adult signatures or other academic records; fabricating data, signatures, or resources; providing or receiving test questions in advance without permission; working collaboratively with other students when individual work is expected; and any other examples that the school wishes to include. Consequences for academic dishonesty are listed on page 2 of the student agenda.

Homework: Homework is an enrichment and extension of the classroom, and will be used for that purpose. Assignments should be completed on time for full credit. Late work will be accepted for a reduced grade. **The student is responsible for initiating all make-up work.** According to the Fulton County Board of Education, Policy JBD, "Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact his or her teacher to request make-up work. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher."

Materials: Students need to make sure they come prepared for class. Please make sure your child has the following items:

- Notebook (nothing greater than 1 inch; contains notebook paper and divider tabs)
- Composition Notebook (This will be used as your journal)
- Writing utensils
- Colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks and ruler (kept in locker)

Extra Help: The following are available to students outside of class time: Before school: Monday in FI12, Tuesday in FI21, Wednesday in FIO1, Thursday in FIO9, and Friday FI12. **Students wishing to attend help sessions must get a signed agenda pass from that teacher before the intended help session is scheduled.** Students who show up without a pass will not be able to attend the help sessions. In addition, I can be available at other times, with prior notification.

Recovery Policy: Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low (73 or below) or failing cumulative grade will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements, including attendance. The student is responsible for initiating this process. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

Chewing gum: The use of chewing gum is allowed in FI12; however if it is abused, the privilege will be taken away.

Please refer to the agenda/student handbook for more information about student policies, especially the school wide discipline policy.

Please keep this syllabus in your binder as a reference for the year. Please sign and show the bottom portion of this syllabus to Ms. Chambers by **Wednesday, August 14**. This syllabus will need to remain in your Social Studies binder at all times.

I have read the 2013-2014 Social Studies Syllabus.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please do NOT cut this bottom portion. Thanks ☺