

## SOCIAL STUDIES 7 COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

**COURSE TITLE:** Social Studies 7 United States & New York State History

**TEACHERS:** Mrs. Koestner and Mrs. Kappes

### 1. Course Description

In order to achieve an understanding of American democracy, this chronological approach to our cultural heritage examines the areas of geography, history, politics, social problems and economics. Units of study will include the first Americans through the Civil War, our nation's government and New York State history and government. Current events will help students develop a better understanding of democracy and the foundations of our government. Primary source documents will be used in every unit to enrich student learning as well as to support the Common Core.

### 2. Helpful Suggestions to Students

- A. Pay attention in class and verbally participate in the lesson whenever possible.
  - B. Read all assignments carefully.
  - C. Do not procrastinate on assignments.
  - D. Make up work as soon as possible.
  - E. Ask for help if you need it!!!
- Bring required materials to class.**

*Common Core Helpful Sites:*

HYPERLINK "http://www.corestandards.org" [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

HYPERLINK "http://www.engageny.org/" <http://www.engageny.org/>

### 3. Text Titles and Classroom Supplements

United States History, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company (**student's will always keep their textbooks at home and have online access**)

New York and Its Western Hemispheric Neighbors, Biemer

Supplementary Texts - Maps

Newspapers/Magazines

Videos/internet

#### 4. Grading policy

- Tests: count twice
- DBQs: count twice
- Quizzes: count once
- Homework: 15% of grade

All assignments will be returned in a timely fashion. DBQs will be kept in the classroom for students to reference.

#### 5. Homework Policy

Homework is assigned regularly and will include reading from the text, answering questions from the text, updating notebooks, reviewing current events, preparing for projects, and studying for tests and quizzes. Students should be prepared for a reading check "Do Now" in class following any reading assignments. A "Do Now" counts as a homework grade. Students will be penalized for incomplete assignments or assignments that do not show quality work. Homework is graded on a number system from one to five, with five being the highest. Homework assignments that are done **neatly and completely** will be given a five. Homework that is reviewed in class on the due date will not be accepted late, and a grade of zero will be given. It is up to **you**, the student, to be responsible for assignments missed when absent. You will have as many days to make up the work, as you were absent. For example, if you were absent 2 days, you will have 2 days to submit the work.

**\* Every attempt will be made to get the homework on the internet; however, writing your homework down in your agenda is the most reliable and accurate source for your assignments. This is your responsibility.**

#### 6. Notebook Policy

Students are expected to keep a 3 ring binder. Students may share this binder with another subject. Class time will be taken to help students organize and maintain a notebook.

#### 7. Attendance

Students must make up work for each class missed when they are legally absent. Please see new attendance policy adopted by the Board of Education in July 2012. Students should look to their agenda for missed assignments. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work he or she has missed while absent (ask a peer).

**8. Extra-Help Days and Locations**

These will be posted in the classroom. Mrs. Koestner's after school help is in room E110 on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs. Kappes's after school help is in room \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**9. Course Objectives**

- To provide students with an awareness of American History.
- To present a chronological study of history from the Colonial Period through the Civil war.
- C. To help students better understand our democratic government and society.
- D. To help students gain a feeling of strong national pride.

**10. Cell Phone Policy**

The use of cell phones is strictly **prohibited at ALL times** in the classroom. This time includes before the start of class, after the end of class, and during homeroom.

**Contacts:**

**Mrs. Koestner**  
kkoestner@northsalemschools.org  
**Mrs. Kappes**  
[kkappes@northsalemschools.org](mailto:kkappes@northsalemschools.org)

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I have read and understand all the expectations of Social Studies 7

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

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_