

Stetson Hills School  
Course Syllabus 2018-2019  
7<sup>th</sup> Social Studies

---

**Teacher:** Mr. Emerick  
**Subject:** 7<sup>th</sup> Social Studies  
**Room:** 611  
**Phone:** (623) 445- 5376  
**E-Mail:** david.emerick@dvusd.org

Hello Parents and Students,

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> grade! I am so excited to be your Social Studies teacher this year. This will be my 5<sup>th</sup> year at Stetson Hills and my fourth year teaching in Arizona. I'm originally from New Orleans, LA where I attended both LSU and Southeastern Louisiana University.

### **Course Objective**

This course will provide you with opportunities for expanding your knowledge in American History as well as developing critical thinking skills through the use of primary source analysis, interactive notebooks, summarizing reading material, and class discussion.

### **Course Standards**

This class aligns to the Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards. ([www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov)).

### **Grading Policy**

Scale:	
A= 90-100%	Proficient work on all content objectives and advanced work on some or many objectives.
B= 80-89%	Proficient work on all content objectives.
C= 70-79%	Proficient work on most content objectives, although not all.
D= 60-69%	Proficient work on at least ½ of the content objectives but missing objectives and is at significant risk of failing.
F= 50-59%	Proficient work on fewer than ½ of the content objectives and is failing.
F= 49%	Proficient work on fewer than ½ of the content objectives and is failing.

## **Grading Policy:**

In order for my students' grades to correctly reflect their understanding of the State Standards I am required to teach, my gradebook will consist of assessments (totaling 95% of the overall grade) and homework (totaling 5% of the overall grade).

Assessments can be in the form of: tests, quizzes, formal writing pieces and projects. Homework can consist of bellwork, classwork, and take home practice.

### Late Work:

- Submitting work on time is the responsibility of the **student**.
- **Late work will not be accepted after the completion of a unit and will automatically be given a 49%.**
- Missing (absent) work will receive a 49% until the assignment has been turned in and graded.
- All absent work will need to be completed and turned in for grading prior to the last week of each quarter.

### Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be offered. Extra credit is not an accurate way to show mastery of concepts.

### Re-teaching and Reassessment

**Re-takes are given at teacher discretion. Only one re-take per assessment is allowed.**

### Absent Work

District policy states that students will receive one day for every day they are absent to make up their work. It is the student's responsibility to do the following in order to receive full credit on absent work:

1. Pick up work they missed while absent by checking the absent files, checking on the class website, and checking with and obtaining notes from a classmate.
2. Label the assignment as "absent" on the top of the page.
3. Turn in the completed assignments in the given amount of time.

\*\*\*It is the responsibility of the **student** to keep track of their makeup work and follow the guidelines listed above in order to receive full credit. To help them I have given multiple ways of keeping up with their school work including my website, student contacts, and their student planner in ISN.

## **Parent/Student Communication**

\*Students are not provided with a Middle School Handbook/Agenda but a calendar will be part of the student's ISN. I **highly** suggest you utilize the websites—you can find class/school announcements, lesson plans, copies of notes, handouts, etc.

\*Parents can also sign up for weekly progress reports to be emailed directly to their email account through Power Schools. I highly encourage doing so as this is the best way to stay up-to-date with your child's grades at school.

\*Parents and students are also always welcome to contact me through email (preferred) or phone.

## Supplies

Students must always be prepared for class. This means the student needs to come to class with all supplies necessary for learning. It is expected that students come to class each day with the following materials:

1. 1-2" Binder (ISN)
2. Lined paper
3. Pencils/Pens
4. Folder with pockets

*Though I prefer that students provide these materials, I will have some supplies on hand to lend to students if they are unable to purchase their own set. These are CLASS SETS and will not be going home with students.*

## Supply Donations:

The following are items that are very useful in the classroom, but not required. Donations are always appreciated!

1. Tissues
2. Sanitizing Wipes
3. Colored Pencils
4. Hand Sanitizer
5. White Board Markers

\*Arizona law requires that public schools provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply, at your discretion. If you have questions, feel free to contact the school.\*

## Classroom Expectations and Components

### Expectations

I have four rules/expectations that I believe will make for a safe, encouraging, and fun learning environment if followed. They are as follows:

1. **Be Respectful:** Be kind with actions and words to the teacher, staff, students, and school.
2. **Follow Directions:** Do what you are told or asked to do; stay on task.
3. **Be Responsible:** Be prepared; have what you need, be in charge of your materials and assignments.
4. **Try Your Best!:** Work hard, participate, and help others.

### Discipline

As stated in the student handbook, the middle school team practices "Love and Logic". This is a method used by teachers to set limits without anger, build strong home-school connections, immediately handling disruptive students, help students own and solve their own problems, etc.

**Step 1:** Warning

**Step 2:** Detention including an email or phone call home

**Step 3:** Office Referral

### Components

- **Interactive Student Notebooks (ISN)-** An ISN is a note-taking/class work tool that combines note-taking with group work, class activities, and study skills. I believe note-taking is an imperative part of learning and understanding concepts. It is expected that a student uses their ISN to take notes during class, participate in ISN activities, use as a tool to complete homework, and study for quizzes and tests.

If a student uses their ISN as expected, then I believe they will be more successful in class. Students may also complete in-class activities or homework in their ISN. So it is important for them to have every day. Students can expect use the ISN daily.

- **Bell Work-** Bell work is a small activity given to the student at the beginning of the class, usually lasting about five minutes. This is used as a reinforcement of learned material.
- **Notebook Quizzes-** Every few weeks students will be given a short notebook quiz. They will be able to use their ISNs on this quiz in order to answer the questions. The notebook quiz will ask specific questions from the notes. If the student always takes the notes and always has their notebook, then they should be successful with these quizzes. These quizzes will be graded using a teacher created rubric.

### **Class participation**

Each student is required to participate daily in class discussions, group assignments, and activities.

### **Academic dishonesty**

Cheating, fabrication, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, alteration of materials, forgery, or theft will not be tolerated. Result of academic dishonesty is a failing grade on the assignment.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are always appreciated at Stetson Hills. There might be times throughout the year when I will need a volunteer in my classroom. Upon these needs, I will send out an email asking for any parents who are willing. However, I will not be needing regular volunteers.

### **Teacher Comments**

If you have any questions or comments regarding the course syllabus or grading policy throughout the year, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Thank you for taking an active role in your child's learning.

As the teacher I reserve the right to make any changes necessary to the syllabus.

**Please fill out the next page and return THAT PAGE ONLY by Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> and save this copy for your records!**