

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy
21-18 46th St.
Queens, NY 11105

Class: 8th Grade Social Studies

Teacher: Mr. Cain

Course Description: Welcome to 8th Grade Social Studies!! The 8th Grade Social Studies curriculum covers Modern American History from Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Era and the Vietnam War of the 1960s. Students will analyze how colonialism and imperialism altered and affected US foreign policy resulting in American participation in World War I and World War II. An emphasis of the course relates to how the changing role of government led to greater federal and state responses to economic and social issues in modern America. 8th Grade Social Studies entails preparing students to analyze DBQs and mastering analytical writing based on primary and secondary source texts. Students will also examine how globalization transformed America and foreign nations based on economic interdependence and environmental factors.

Class Policies/Procedures:

Homework: Homework will be given 3 to 4 times a week and should take roughly 30 minutes to complete. Homework is graded based on a check system ranging from a check plus or fully completed homework, check minus or incomplete homework to a zero for non-submission of homework. Students can make up homework with excused absences.

Tests: Tests are generally given 2 weeks upon completion of a unit based on content covered in the Social Studies curriculum. Students will be given one-week notification and receive a review session prior to the test. Tests will be signed by a parent.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given frequently to ensure student understanding of content knowledge in Social Studies. Students will receive one day notification before a quiz is administered. Quizzes will be signed by a parent.

Projects: A Social Studies project will be assigned 1-2 times each trimester in order to provide students with the opportunity to explore a topic in greater depth utilizing creativity and content knowledge. A criteria sheet will be distributed to students regarding each assigned project. Students will complete in-class and independent projects. A research project will be discussed in the final quarter. Students will be taught research skills and citations based on the MLA format.

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate regularly in classroom learning activities, discussions and group work. Questions are always encouraged.

Classroom Conduct: Students will be respectful and courteous to both peers and the instructor during class sessions. Attentiveness to instructions is essential for a successful class setting.

Positive Note: Last, but not least, it is an honor to have each student in 8th Grade Social Studies. If any student is struggling in Social Studies, I am more than happy to speak to and assist any student, in need of additional academic or personal support.

Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to having a great year together!!

Mr. Cain

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