

Special Topics in Social Studies
Mrs. Brownlee
Email: cbonnerb@houstonisd.org
Room 246

Office Hours: 7:15 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday

Welcome to Special Topics in Social Studies!

Special Topics in Social Studies is an elective course in which students analyze, evaluate, develop, and appraise topics that include aspects of Social Studies. Students apply critical thinking techniques to social issues such as political, geographical, economical, and multicultural issues. The implications are that once the student has completed the course, he/she will have the tools and the understanding necessary to dissect social events and issues that affect the students' lives.

Class Rules: My expectations of you are very high, because I *know* that you can meet them. You are almost adults, and I want to treat you as such. For this to happen, there are a few guidelines you need to keep up with:

1. **Respect** yourself, your classmates, and me.
2. **Be on time** and **in your seat** when the bell rings
3. Use **respectful and school appropriate language** in class and discussion
4. **Remain quiet** when I and others are talking
5. **Come prepared** with all of your materials
6. **NO Cell Phones of any kind on or visible in class.**

NO FOOD!! You may **only** have bottled water in class.

Materials: For this class you will need:

- 1) **Two spirals for the school year**
- 2) Highlighters
- 3) Markers and/or colored pencils.
- 4) Flash Drive
- 5) Glue Stick

Website: All information you need for World History assignments can be found at my website:

1st Period <https://houston.itslearning.com/ContentArea/ContentArea.aspx?LocationID=1485155&LocationType=1>

Grading. According to Social Studies Department policy, grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

- Homework/Classwork: 30%
- Tests/Projects: 40%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Final 10% of the grade

Inevitably, discrepancies will occur concerning grades. For this reason, you should **save all graded assignments you receive in your Interactive Notebook**. If my recorded grade and your records differ, you will be able to prove your case; otherwise there will be nothing I can do.

Homework. You can expect homework to be assigned weekly. You will have two days to complete most assignments. Every Thursday/Friday we may have a quiz based on the homework assignments. You will be able to use your completed homework assignments on these quizzes.

Make-up/ Re-Takes and Late Work: Please be sure to check the HUB for all assignments that you miss when in class. All worksheet and PowerPoint will be uploaded there. There will also be a folder in the front of the class that will tell you what you missed. Re-takes on test are allowed for grades less than 70% The highest grade that will be recorded in the grade book is a 75. The student must complete the re-take within one week after the test.

The late work policy is as follows:

- If you are absent, you have five days to submit missing work. See HSLJ student handbook.
- Late work will be accepted according to the LECJ student handbook.
- Late work will receive 10% deductions for each class period up to five class days. After five class days the late work will be entered as a zero in the gradebook

Please make sure you stay on top of your work. I am so excited to be working with you this school year. My goal is that you come out of this course with a better appreciation of who you are and how to find your place in the world. I truly believe that you all can be successful.

Agenda for the Fall Semester. Changes may be made if needed

Units	Topics
One	Ancient Egypt
Two	The Hebrews
Three	Ancient Mesopotamia
Four	Ancient Greece
Five	Ancient China
Six	Ancient India
Seven	Ancient Rome
Eight	Christianity and Islam
Nine	The Middle Ages
Ten	The Renaissance
Eleven	The Enlightenment
Twelve	Public Ethics
Thirteen	Capitalism and Communism
Fourteen	Final Project