

Mr. Merz  
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Rm # B115  
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## 7B TEXAS HISTORY SYLLABUS 2019-20

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**Course Description:** This class explores the history of Texas from its early beginnings to the present. Students will learn about the geographic concepts through studying regions in Texas that result from physical features and human activity. The Social Studies skills of interpreting and analyzing visual and textual materials such as maps, data, and primary/secondary sources are examined as students learn about key events, themes, and individuals in Texas History. Students will then be able to apply this acquired knowledge to present day Texas and beyond.

**Supplies needed:** Every student will be required to have the following every day:

- Two 100-sheet spiral notebooks (1 for Interactive Notebook, 1 for Warm-Ups)
- Pen or Pencil
- Highlighter

**Expectations/Policies:** All students are expected to perform and behave in a manner that complies with the policies and procedures of Pin Oak Middle School and Houston ISD.

**Homework:** Traditional homework (worksheets/small projects/etc.) will be assigned most days. Most homework assignments will receive some amount of class time to be worked on; however, these assignments will not likely receive sufficient time to be completed in class. Homework is due the next class period, unless otherwise noted. Late homework will adhere to the policies of Pin Oak Middle School (20% penalty).

\*Pre-AP Students will be required to read at least one historical book/novel from my library, or other libraries, and complete one Dialectical Journal Entry (Classwork grade) every six weeks.

**Grading:** Grades will be determined based on 3 categories and the percentage of possible points each student earns in each category. Categories and values are as follows: **10%** Homework, **40%** Tests/ Major Projects, and **50%** Quizzes/Classwork.

\*Letter grades will be assigned as follows 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-75=C, 70-74=D, 69-0=Failing.

\*Late assignments will carry a 20% penalty up until the unit/chapter summative assessment.

\*If an assignment is turned in after the summative assessment date, the grade will be subjected to a 50% penalty.

\*Every 3 late assignments will result in a drop in a student's conduct grade.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit will be offered through student participation in online discussion boards. I will pose one weekly question/article using an online tool, and students can respond and participate in a class discussion for a total of 10 homework points per week. Students will be expected to produce 1 meaningful response to my initial question/article and at least 1 meaningful reply to another student's response during the week. Opportunities for extra credit will begin on the first day of the given week and end on the last day of the given week.

**\*NO LATE EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

\*Some extra credit discussions will involve themes from Texas History, but most will focus on current events/issues. Extra credit is neither necessary nor required to pass, but provides a way for students to receive enrichment, bonus points, and a forum to become better young citizens. Student misbehavior on discussion boards will result in no extra credit points and is subject to the discipline policies and procedures of Pin Oak Middle School and HISD.

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***Course Overview (Typically 2 Units per 6 Weeks):***

***Unit 1 - Being a Historian and Geographer:*** This unit focuses on geographic concepts, physical features and human activity. The Social Studies skills of interpreting and analyzing visual and text materials such as maps, data, primary documents, and secondary sources are introduced in this unit. This unit also uses the concept of region for students to explore Texas physical and human geography. It includes a review of basic map, chart, and graph skills

***Unit 2 - Native Americans: The First Texans:*** This unit focuses on the lifestyle and varied cultures of various Native American tribes in Texas before the arrival of Europeans.

***Unit 3 - European Exploration/Settlement:*** This unit focuses on the early European explorers in the Americas and the Spanish as one of the first colonial powers in Texas and the New World.

***Unit 4 - Spanish and Anglos Settle Texas:*** This unit deals with the early Spanish settlements in Texas and about the arrival and establishment of an Anglo population in the area. This unit examines immigration, lifestyle, and growing unrest in early 19th century Texas.

***Unit 5 - Texas Revolution:*** The bread and butter of Texas History; during this unit we focus on the major causes and events of the Texas Revolution leading all the way to the Battle of San Jacinto.

***Unit 6 - The Republic of Texas:*** This unit addresses the period of Texas as a republic (1836-1845). Students learn about the problems that faced the new government and the issues surrounding the annexation of Texas to the United States.

***Unit 7 - Civil War and Reconstruction:*** This unit addresses the causes and main events of the Civil War and includes the contributions of Texas and Texans to this historic conflict. The unit also includes the study of the effects of the Civil War and the impact of Reconstruction on life in Texas.

***Unit 8 - Texas Grows and Prospers:*** This unit examines the growth of Texas during the late 19th century including the significance of the cattle industry, railroads, and the discovery of oil in 1901.

***Unit 9 - Government in Texas:*** This unit gives an overview of the Texas and U.S. Constitutions including the principles of democratic government reflected in those documents. Students also learn about the structure and function of a federal system and address the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society.

***Unit 10 - The World in Transition - 20th Century Texas:*** This unit teaches about the major events that occurred in Texas and the world in the 20th century.

***Unit 11 - 20<sup>th</sup> Century Trends in Texas:***  
This five-part unit uses the concept of change over time and historical turning points to study major events and ESPN [Economic, Social, Political and eNvironmental] changes that occurred in 20<sup>th</sup> century Texas.