

# Social 7 (U.S. History) Course Syllabus 2016-2017

**Class: United States History I**  
**Room: 2313**  
**Teacher: Mr. Olson**  
**Prep Period: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Class Website: [www.mysocialclass.com](http://www.mysocialclass.com)**

Welcome back! This class is United States History, the study of our country's past. In this class we will examine the founding ideas and principles of our nation and how these have been applied in our country from 1800 to modern day. The class will hopefully help you learn about our country's heritage and help you develop a better sense of what it means to be "an American".

## **How can you be successful in this class?**

First and foremost...**BE HERE!** You cannot participate or learn when you are not present. I will take attendance at the beginning of each period. It is your responsibility to be in the room and seated, in your assigned seat, at this time or you will be marked absent or tardy. Five unexcused tardies count as an absence. If you miss 10 or more class periods in any semester you may receive no credit for the course.

Just like your other teachers, I too have what I call my "Rules to Success" If you learn and follow these rules, you will be very successful in this class. If you do not...this will be a very long year for you.

## **Mr. Olson's Rules to Success**

### **Rule #1           Come to class prepared to learn.**

Each day you will need to bring to class your notebook, pen/pencil, agenda, colored pencils, and most importantly a positive attitude. I will not provide these items if you forget or lose them. Students not bringing these items will be assigned a credo, behavior improvement essay, detention, or any combination of these for repeat/chronic offenders.

### **Rule #2           Accept responsibility for yourself.**

You are now a middle school student; you need to act like one. Everyday you should come to class on time, with all required materials, and go directly to your seat to begin working on that day's assignment. **Always remember, you are responsible for you!**

### **Rule #3           Complete all assignments on time.**

All class work is due on the date given in class by the classroom teacher. Late work will only be awarded "completion credit" and a zero score will be awarded unless an "oops" coupon is attached to the late work. Take pride in your work; do not be sloppy in your work. Illegible, or below grade level quality work will not be accepted and you will receive no credit for such work. Out of fairness to you, I will always give you ample time to complete your assignments, but you need to manage your time wisely.

#### **Rule #4 Study for your tests and quizzes**

##### **Tests:**

Tests are typically given following the completion of a unit/chapter. All tests consist of a general recall format where students are given a series of questions where they have to respond with the correct answer. A typical test consists of between 30-40 questions and students have one class period to complete the test.

Students will have two options to choose from when taking a test on their initial attempt: the A-Option and the C-Option.

**A-Option:** Students choosing to take the A-Option can earn an A or B grade on their tests; however students may not use their class notes to assist them.

**C-Option:** Students who have completed all notes/assignments of the chapter/unit being assessed prior to the test are eligible for the C-Option. A student choosing the C-Option may use their chapter notes to assist them but the highest grade they may earn on the test is the *highest* possible C grade (typically around 79%). Using the C-Option any points students earn beyond this grade are forfeited and are not counted into the test score. All students will have the opportunity to see the test before choosing the A or C option.

**Retake-Option:** Any student who receives a score below 70% may retake the test as many times as he/she chooses to get the grade up to the *lowest* possible "C" grade (70%). In order to do this a test must be made-up before the next test is given or the quarter ends, whichever comes first. After this time students will receive the grade they earned on the first attempt or the best retake score earned up to that date. All re-takes must be arranged ahead of time with the classroom teacher as students will not be allowed to use class time for re-takes. In addition, students will only be allowed a retake opportunity if ALL notes and ALL assignments for that chapter/section have been completed; students will have to prove that these are completed before a retest will be allowed. Students retaking tests will always be allowed to use their notes on their tests.

##### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes are typically given once per week and cover only the material taught and studied during that week. Quizzes are typically made up of between 10-20 objective style questions (multiple choice, true/false, matching, etc.). Quizzes cannot be made up if scores are below a C grade. In addition, no notes may be used on quizzes. A quiz may not, at teacher's discretion, be given during those weeks in which a test is given.

#### **Rule #5 Show respect for yourself, toward your peers, your teacher, and property.**

Every student in this class is a valuable member and a contributor. There are to be no put downs of any kind in this classroom. Any student found to be teasing, harassing, or being disrespectful toward any other class members will be dealt with disciplinary action. Room 2313 is a safe haven for all students and each student's right to space, property, and opinions.

Do not abuse school property. There should be no writing on desks, in books, etc.

No student should be in my desk for any reason unless permission has been granted.

Students caught vandalizing school property, including textbooks, will be referred to school administration for disciplinary action.

#### **Rule #6 Always act in a safe manner.**

There is absolutely no running, throwing things, or any other type of potentially unsafe behavior. Unsafe acts will NOT be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.

At the end of the period/hour, you are excused by Mr. Olson, **NOT** the bell.

**Rule #7            Keep the classroom neat and orderly.**

Please make sure all garbage is placed in the garbage cans each day before you leave.

**THERE IS NO FOOD OR DRINKS (EXCEPT WATER IN CLEAR CONTAINERS) ALLOWED IN MY CLASSROOM AT ANY TIME! ANYONE CAUGHT WITH THESE ITEMS WILL BE ASSIGNED A BEHAVIOR LETTER OR A PERIOD OF DETENTION AND A BEHAVIOR LETTER FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS. CHEWING GUM IS ALLOWED AS LONG AS IT IS NOT SEEN AND IT IS NOT FOUND STUCK TO DESKS. REMEMBER THIS IS A PRIVILEGE THAT CAN BE TAKEN AWAY IF THIS IS ABUSED.**

**Rule #8            No Passes**

You should take care of all of your business during the passing time between classes (locker stops, drinking fountain, telephone, and restroom use) not during class time. As a general rule I will typically NOT allow students to leave my classroom for these reasons.

\*\*\* All students will be given two “oops” coupons at the beginning of each grading quarter that may be used as a hall pass or as an excuse for a late daily work assignment (may not be used for tests or quizzes). Additional “oops” coupons may be obtained for purchase through extra credit for 10 points each.

**Rule #9            Make-Up Work Due to Absences**

**Excused Absences:**

Any assignments given before your absence must be turned in immediately on return to school to receive full credit. For work assigned during your absence you will receive the same number of days that the rest of the students received. **Tests must be made up within three days of your return or a zero score will be assigned. It is up to you to make arrangements for a make-up time. You will not be allowed to make-up a test during class time.**

**Unexcused Absences:**

If your absence was unexcused, you will receive zero credit for daily work and this may not be made up regardless if an “oops” coupon is applied. If you miss a test with an unexcused absence a zero will be assigned and students will be allowed to make up the test for the lowest possible “C” grade following the test retake policy. Please note that the main office staff not the classroom teacher determines an unexcused absence. If an absence needs to be cleared as excused you must clear it in the office, not with the teacher.

**Absences Due to School Functions:**

If you miss class due to a school function (i.e. athletics, music lessons, field trips, etc.) you are responsible for obtaining all work prior to the absence to receive full credit. Students failing to do this will have their work treated as if it was late and will be penalized according to the grading policy.

Also, if you miss class due to being in the nurse’s office, and are not sent home during the day, you are still responsible for checking in and picking up any missing assignments from that day and turning any assignments due on that date or a zero score will be awarded. The nurse’s office is not a valid excuse for not completing class work on time.

## Rule #10 Cellular Phones/Electronic Devices

Cellular Phones: Cellular phone use and possession is generally not allowed in my classroom without teacher permission. Any student caught using or possessing a cell phone in class will have the device confiscated and it will need to be picked up by a parent/guardian. It will NOT be returned to the student. Students are highly encouraged to leave their phones in their lockers, however as students enter the classroom there is an orange Rubbermaid container where students may place their phones in for safekeeping and without penalty for the class period. Students need to have their phones powered off and they may be picked up as they leave the classroom at the end of the class period. Please be aware that Mr. Olson will not be responsible for any lost or missing phones.

Electronic devices may occasionally be permitted in class for certain academic activities. Students will be given advance notice as to the dates these devices will be needed in class. These will also be listed on the weekly agenda listed on the class website.

## Grading

### Quarter Grades:

Quarter grades are based on the following percentages:

**15% on daily work, homework, and other activities/assignments (usually can be completed in one day)**

**25% on class projects (typically those items that take more than 1-2 days to complete)**

**60% on tests/quizzes**

### Grading Scale:

**A = 100% – 90%**

**B = 89% – 80%**

**C = 79% - 70%**

**D = 69% – 60%**

**F = 59% or less**

### Final Semester Grades:

All students will take a cumulative final exam that will count as 20% of their semester grade. The remaining 80% of the grade will be weighted equally by averaging the percentages of the quarter grades.

**I will never fail a student who makes an honest effort at all their work and who always tries his/her best regardless of class average.** Any student that completes ALL assignments at GRADE LEVEL, takes advantage of retake opportunities for tests, and attempts all quizzes will receive a passing grade. This is the minimal criteria needed to pass this class.

## Extra Credit

Extra credit may be earned by printing a current grade report from the Infinite Campus website and having it signed by a parent/guardian and turning it into the classroom teacher by the final school day of each week of the quarter. If a printout is unable to be obtained, a HANDWRITTEN note from a parent/guardian will also be accepted as long as the note indicates the child's current grade and percentage and that the parent/guardian acknowledges seeing the grade. Students will earn 5 points per grade sheet but students are only allowed one signed grade sheet per week. Students may earn a maximum of 45 extra credit points per quarter. All extra credit will be placed on the daily work portion of their grade. **NO PARENTAL EMAIL WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR EXTRA CREDIT.** In addition, students may use extra credit points to purchase additional "oops" coupons (10 points each) for use throughout the quarter. Oops coupons are not transferrable for use on other students work and expire at the end of each quarter.

## Materials Needed for this Class

1. 3-Ring Notebook (2" or larger recommended) and paper (Dividers are not required, but would help in organization.)
2. Folder for Handouts
3. Colored Pencils (Basic Colors Only)
4. Pens/#2 Lead Pencils
5. A valid account using Quizlet.com (instructions will be provided in class)

## Parent/Guardian Signature Page

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please take a moment to look over the class policies that will be enforced this year in your child's Social 7 class. The purpose of this page is to ensure that your child shared the information given to them on the first day of class and to help answer any questions or concerns you may have. Please look over the class policies and have your child return this sheet signed to me by Monday, September 12, 2016. All students will also have a test on these class policies on this date as well.

In addition, if you would like to keep informed of class studies, assignment requirements, test and assignment due dates, and other information please check out the class website at [www.mysocialclass.com](http://www.mysocialclass.com).

Mr. George Olson

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I have looked over the class policies for my child's 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies class with my child and understand the expectations that my child will be held to throughout the school year.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Your Child's Name

Please provide an e-mail address if you wish to receive reminder notices for student tests, assignment due dates, and other class information.

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_