

7th Grade Social Studies – World Cultures and Geography
Mr. Michael Irving 7B4 Palmer Middle School 2010-2011
Advanced Content

The curriculum and instruction strategies for this course are differentiated in content, pacing, process skills, and expectation of student outcomes from the typical 7th grade social studies course. Curriculum content has been designed for mastery and extension of state and district performance standards. The course is appropriate for students who have high achievement and interest in social studies. The district has established criteria and guidelines to identify students who will be successful with the advanced curriculum offered in social studies. Students were placed in this class according to specified indicators of demonstrated exceptional ability and motivation. Students must meet continuation criteria to remain in the class. They must maintain a B average. If students earn below 80 in a nine week grading period they will be placed on probation. If students earn below an 80 in 2 nine week periods, they will be discontinued from this Advanced Content class and placed in an on-level social studies class as scheduling permits.

In seventh grade, students conclude the study of major world regions and cultures. The four strands are integrated, with history as the central strand. The history strand focuses on historical developments essential to understanding a specific region in the modern world. The geography strand relates the importance of geography to each region's development. The civics strand examines the political structure in the region and the economics strand continues to build basic economic concepts and introduces students to the economic development of the region. A complete list of the Georgia Performance standards for seventh grade social studies can be found at:

<http://picasso.cobbk12.org/index.php?module=curriculum&type=courses&func=display&CourseID=605&verbose=1>

Course Outline:

Southwest Asia (Middle East)- This unit will include an overview of physical and cultural geography, the origin of Middle Eastern cultures, 20th century Middle East, and political and economic systems. - 9-12 weeks

Africa- This unit includes an overview of physical and cultural geography, the origin of African cultures, colonization and independence of African nations, political and economic systems, and 20th century Africa. -9-12 weeks

Southern and Eastern Asia- This unit will include an overview of physical and cultural geography, origin of Asian cultures, political and economic systems, and 20th century Asia. -9-12 weeks

Methods of Instruction:

Teacher Focused- Teacher will facilitate the presentation of core curriculum, learning strategies, note taking, discussions, differentiated content and process.

Student Focused-Completion of reading assignments, current events, class notes, class activities, cooperative group participation, presentations and projects. Students will be expected to keep up their agenda and notebook as a portfolio and as a study tool.

Textbook: Students will be supplied a textbook (World Cultures and Geography) to take home and return at the end of the school year. Replacement cost is \$45.95.