

DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Individuals and Societies

GRADE: 6

Anticipated student outcomes:

1. Use critical thinking skills such as analyzing, hypothesizing, and problem solving while reading and/or writing
2. Utilize research skills and information gathering when examining a topic in depth
3. Understand how current events around the world impact our lives

Course description:

Grade 6 Individuals and Societies is based on the history and geography of the Eastern Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations, and empires; interaction between societies; and the comparison of trends in government and economics. The course is divided into seven units that cover a time span from pre-history into the 1300s. Students engage in a variety of literacy activities including reading non-fiction text, reading current events news articles and responding through writing to a variety of prompts. Two areas of inquiry we will engage with this year are: *Global problems are a reality but individuals have the power and choice to make a positive difference* and *innovation and revolution provide the change necessary to create a turning point in history.*

Materials required or used:

Two Blue Folders (to kept in classroom)
Loose-leaf paper
Colored Pencils
Index Cards

Criteria for grading:

We use a Total Points system for grading. At the end of the quarter, the total number of points earned is divided by the total number of points possible in the quarter. These points are earned by performance in the following areas: class participation, class work, homework, quizzes, projects and unit tests.

Graded work is posted on the Parent Portal. The grade book is updated every two weeks. When assignments are submitted, the code “**AR**” indicates that I have received the assignment. If an assignment is not submitted, the code “**MA**” indicates the assignment is missing. If a student is excused from an assignment, the code “**EX**” will be entered, along with a comment indicating why the student was excused from

the assignment. The current average is shown in the “Marking Period Average” column. Please check the Parent Portal periodically, to ensure that your child is up to date with their work. If you have not yet activated your Parent Portal account, please contact Diane Newell, Educational Technology Coordinator and CIO, at newelld@dfsd.org.

Opportunities for Enrichment: Families may use the following websites to learn more about topics we study throughout the year:

<http://www.kathimitchell.com/ancivil.html>- general information about various civilizations

<http://www.metmuseum.org>- click on the “Where” tab to search the collection by location

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/>- hosted by the BBC; contains short, non fiction text

<http://www.factmonster.com>- online encyclopedia, almanac and dictionary. Find information about any topic (not only Social Studies!) **This website has pop up ads.

Outline developed by: Individuals and Societies Department

Date: Spring 2018