

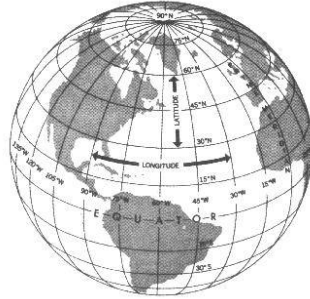
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## Course Expectations 8 Red Social Studies 2009-2010



**Mr. Balulescu – Room 606**

**E-mail: *mbalulescu@mail.ab.mec.edu***

**Class Home Page: *http://mail.ab.mec.edu/~mbalulescu/***

**Directions:** Please review the information in this packet. **Make sure that you and your parent or guardian both sign the last page on the dotted line!**

### COURSE CONTENT

Our year together will be divided into **four** major units:

- 1. Prepare to Travel/Toolbox**
- 2. China**
- 3. The Middle East**
- 4. India**

### COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to help us develop important social and academic skills while learning about diverse and dynamic cultures around the world. Throughout the year, we will learn about these cultures while practicing how to think critically, speak persuasively, and write effectively. We will not only learn about the world around us, but we will also try to improve how we communicate about that world.

### COURSE MATERIALS

The following materials should be brought to class (or accessible in your locker) every day:

- Three-ring binder (at least 1 ½ inches)
- 4 section dividers
- Lined composition paper

- Planbook
- Pencils
- Blue or black ink pens
- Package of colored pencils
- Highlighters

## COURSE GRADING POLICY

Most assignments will have a certain point value attached to them. For example, a map quiz might be worth 50 points, while an essay might be worth 100 points. You will be graded each time based on the number of points available, and your grade at the end of the quarter will be determined by the amount of points you have earned divided by the number of points possible. Whenever appropriate, I will provide you with a rubric ahead of time so that you can see exactly how I will be grading your work on a given assignment. This system makes it easy for you to track your progress in social studies, because you can do the math yourself!

At the end of each quarter, you will also be **graded on your contributions to the classroom** throughout the marking period. This grade will include class participation, respect shown towards your teacher and your peers, and use of class time. Your contribution grade will usually be worth the same as a major project.

**Note:** If an assignment with a point value is ever turned in past the due date, you will lose 10 percent of the total points available for each day the project is late (so a paper worth 100 points turned in two days late will automatically lose 20 points). Also, please put your name on everything you turn in to me. **Nameless assignments will be treated the same as late assignments.**

## HOMEWORK POLICY

You are expected to bring your homework with you to class on the day it is due. I do not assign busy work, so all homework assignments are important for your learning and growth as a student. More important homework assignments will be collected and assigned point values, while smaller assignments will be graded on a check system (a check-plus, check, or check-minus). Barring any serious illness or emergency situations, you will have one day to complete a late homework for half-credit. After one day you will have missed your chance to earn credit and learn something important.

**Homework is often available on our class web page, but you are responsible for copying homework every day from the homework board in class!**

In general, I do not like pop quizzes any more than you do; however, if I feel that students are not doing their homework, I reserve the right to use pop quizzes whenever necessary.

## RETAKES, EXTENSIONS, AND EXTRA CREDIT

As a rule, I do not offer any of these options for any assignments. However, if you run into unforeseen problems or emergencies, I am a reasonable person and I am always willing to be flexible if the situation calls for it.

## EXTRA HELP

I strongly encourage each of you to come for extra help whenever you need it. My scheduled extra help day is **after school on Tuesdays**, but I can be available almost anytime after school if you ask me in advance.

## WHAT TO DO FOLLOWING AN ABSENCE

1. On the day you return to school, hand in any homework you completed but did not turn in on the day(s) you missed.
2. Copy the *Table of Contents* entries from the easel at the front of the classroom.
3. If you missed any notes or worksheets, please get them from a classmate or see me after school during extra help.
4. Take copies of any handouts you need from the *Extra Copies* tray in the classroom.
5. Make arrangements to make up any work you missed. All tests, projects, quizzes, class work, and homework must be made up in a timely manner.
6. Please see me or email me if you have any questions about the lessons and work you may have missed.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

**I have written these class expectations based on your input and our group discussion on Thursday.** I really enjoyed hearing and reading your ideas and I hope these expectations can work for all of us!

- ★ This classroom will be fun! We will learn using a variety of lessons, hands-on activities, group work, videos, creative projects, and other cool stuff.
- ★ This classroom will be respectful. We will respect others, their opinions, and their belongings.
- ★ This classroom will be comfortable. You will be allowed to bring snacks and refreshments to class and you will have variety in your seating arrangements. You will not be put on the spot during class discussions and activities without prior warning. Homework will be assigned in a reasonable manner and never during school vacations. Weekend homework will be assigned sparingly. Quizzes and tests will never be given on a Monday.
- ★ This classroom will be studious. Homework will be completed on time, every time. You will strive to participate enthusiastically in class discussions and activities.
- ★ This classroom will be fair. All students will be treated equally, and I will be fair in my assessment and grading. You will be given advance notice of all notebook checks and major assignments when appropriate.
- ★ This classroom will be honest. All students will complete their own work. Plagiarism, copying, and cheating will not be tolerated in any form.

*I have read and I understand the policies and expectations outlined here by Mr. Balulescu.*



**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_