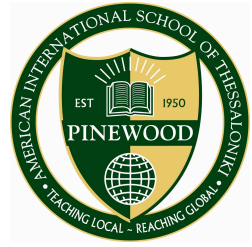


PINEWOOD – THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THESSALONIKI

NAME OF COURSE: Social Studies

GRADE LEVEL: 8

SCHOOL YEAR: 2011-12



COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Social Studies course for eighth grade students will consist of two separate units of study, history and geography, coinciding with the two separate school semesters.

The first semester focuses on the early civilizations of West Africa and the influence of European and Islamic cultures on it. Then, students further their studies in Asian history by studying Imperial China and medieval Japan. Finally, a survey of Central American societies introduces students to the American continent, which serves as a link to future studies in European exploration and conquest. In general, this semester's course material attempts to link world cultures to one another.

The second semester will focus on contemporary World Geography issues. An initial introduction to the geographer's world will guide the students to further studies on the geographical areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

This course relies on active student involvement in daily activities, cooperative pair and group work, peer collaboration on projects, and individual research on topics of self-interest. A strong educational emphasis is placed on oral and written communication and the mechanics of writing for history.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Identify patterns of change and continuity such as the relationships between people and events through time.
- Examine the causes and effects of interactions among societies including trade, systems of international exchange, war, and diplomacy, resources, and pollution.
- Investigate cultural and intellectual developments and interactions among and within societies.
- Examine why societies create and adopt systems of governance and how these systems address human needs, rights, and citizen responsibilities.
- Identify fundamental economic principles and ways in which economies are shaped by geographic and human factors.
- Conclude how societies have influenced and been influenced by scientific and technological developments.
- Examine population trends, the effects of population density, and urbanization patterns.
- Analyze effects of extreme weather and of non-preservation of natural resources.
- Explore political, economic, and cultural forces that work for and against supranational cooperation.
- Examine the concept of globalization.
- Gather evidence, develop arguments, debate, and form reasoned opinions.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

SEMESTER I: HISTORY

QUARTER I

Culture and Kingdoms of West Africa

- Geography and settlement
- Early Societies of West Africa
- Ghana: A West African Trading Empire
- The Influence of Islam of West Africa

Imperial China

- Political development
- Economic growth
- Advanced Chinese technology

QUARTER II

Japan During Medieval Times

- Geographical setting
- The Influence of Neighboring Cultures on Japan
- Japan's Golden Age
- Rise of the Warrior Class in Japan

Civilizations of the Americas

- Geographical setting
- The Maya
- The Aztecs
- The Incas

SEMESTER II: GEOGRAPHY

QUARTER III

Introduction to Geography: the Geographer's Tools and Thinking Spatially.

- Physical and Human Geography
- National Geography Standards
- The main purpose of Maps: map types, the Global Grid, Scale, Projections
- The Earth's Physical Features, Climate Zones, Vegetation, Population Density, Resources, Regions

Africa

- The Nile river: from source to mouth
- Life in the Sahara and Sahel
- Resources and Power in Post-apartheid South Africa

QUARTER IV

Asia

- Oil in Southwest Asia
- China: the World's Most Populous Country
- Population Density in Japan: Life in a Crowded Country

Latin America

- Spatial Inequality

Europe

- Supranational Cooperation in the European Union
- Transboundary Pollution in Europe

HOMEWORK POLICY

Students will be assigned homework up to three times per week. Late assignments will receive 10% off the graded work for every day late for up to two days only. Homework will be assigned in various different formats: reading comprehension and questions, completing graphic organizers, writing for understanding activities, reading and note taking, etc.

Students will be expected to complete one project per quarter worth 20% of their quarter grade. The type of project will vary each quarter and will focus on addressing student's skills in conducting conclusive and topical research, writing using appropriate essay formats, oral presentation, or will highlight their creative talents.

ASSESSMENT

Tests and Quizzes	40%
Homework assignments	30%
Projects	20%
Participation	10%

RESOURCES

History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond

Teacher's Curriculum Institute, 2011 (student textbook and Interactive Student Notebook)

Geography Alive! Regions and People

Teacher's Curriculum Institute, 2011 (student textbook and Interactive Student Notebook)

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is fundamental to the integrity and operation of our school. Acts of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism (the act of presenting others' words and ideas as one's own without crediting the source), stealing in quizzes and tests, copying work from other students or allowing their own work to be copied, or using notes during a test, are considered serious offences. The consequences of academic dishonesty will be a zero grade on the specific test/assignment, and additional disciplinary action. The said student will be ineligible or removed from the National Honor Society.