



"You got a "C" in History?? How hard could it be?"

[Mr. Mitchell's Social Studies Class](#)

7D Team 2010-2011

[Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School](#)

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 7th grade! This is the first of the two year loop. There are many components to this class and how you are to be graded, so please read the following carefully, sign at the bottom of this page, and return it to me.

1. Curriculum: We will start off the year with an introduction to the [Social Studies Essential Questions](#), a [World History Timeline Assignment](#), and then we'll move into the [Early Humans Unit](#). Some lessons might be abbreviated or elaborated upon depending upon class understanding and time. The goal of our curriculum is for students to understand the past in order to better understand the present.

2. Notebooks: Each student will be required to keep handouts and other assignments given in class in an organized notebook. Organization is key to ensuring that all is handed in and you are prepared for class. Part of this notebook will be used to keep responses to various prompts, questions, notes, etc. covered in class. (I will provide the lined paper if you don't have it.) These responses and the content included in this notebook will be graded at different times and will help to serve as an ongoing assessment of each student's progress.

3. Current Events Connection: All students will be required to find current articles in newspapers, magazines, online news sources, etc. that connect to the Thematic Essential Questions. See the department [Current Events](#) webpage online for tools and handouts. Remember the goal is to understand the present through learning about our history.

4. Portfolios: All students will be required to keep a working portfolio of their work in class. I will provide a file cabinet and folders for this purpose. Their work will be compiled according to evidence of their understanding of the Thematic Essential Questions in our Social Studies curriculum.

5. Textbooks: The class will use two textbooks this year: [Prentice Hall's World Explorer The Ancient World](#). The texts are available online and linked throughout corresponding to the online curriculum (see me for the password). I have a class set as well and will issue one to any student who has difficulty accessing the Internet at home.

6. Email/Contact Me: trmitchell31@yahoo.com The best way to contact me is through email. My Yahoo! Account is much more dependable than my school account. Call the school at 822-9426 to reach me by phone and leave a

message (I do not have a phone in the classroom). Given I check email everyday and on my cell phone, I will get back to you as soon as possible.

7. Student and Parent Email: All students need to have a web-based email account (One that they can check and use at both school and at home). This is very important in saving work to work on at home and then at school the next day. Most importantly, many students email me with various clarifying questions on work from home. Contact me if you are unsure what is safe for your child. As for parents, please either write in your email below or send me an email so I can create a address group to contact you as necessary. Parent and teacher communication is key to the success of each student.

8. Projects/Evaluation: All students will participate in class and group projects during the year. It is essential that students learn to work with each other effectively, yet understand that all students will receive an individual grade. I use teacher, peer, and self-evaluations to best determine individual contributions.

9. [Class](#) and [Department Website](#): While some assignments cannot be posted online as they are implemented in class, substitutions will be posted in case a student cannot attend school that day. All student handouts and texts can be accessed on the website. See me for passwords to protected documents and pages.

10. [Weekly Agenda](#): The class schedule will be posted here at the beginning of each week. This is subject to change given student understanding. I update this on the weekend, but at times changes are made in class and are not updated immediately online. Check the Student Agenda too or email me if you have a question. Parents: I realize how frustrating it can be when you don't have a clue as to what your child is supposed to do.

11. [Trimester Assignment List](#): All assignments covered and graded for the trimester will be listed here. They will also be under the Grades link, but this will tell you what grading strands each assignment falls under.

12. [Grades](#): All grades are posted online. These are updated regularly. Each student is assigned a number. Please check on your child's progress frequently. (Contact me for the username and password)

Please sign below indicating you have read and understand the class syllabus above.

Parent Email (s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Signature: _____

I look forward to a successful year,

Mr. Mitchell

Class Website: <http://www.mitchellteachers.org/mrmitchellsocialstudies.htm>

Social Studies Department Website:

http://www.asfms.net/SocialStudiesDepartment/asfms_social_studies_department.html