*8th Grade Georgia Studies Syllabus*

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**TEACHER BLOGS:** Blogs contain both classwork and homework, and can be accessed through the East Cobb Middle School website at <http://www.cobbk12.org/EastCobb/> Once there, go to “**Faculty & Staff”,** then click on the teacher of your choice to access their blog.

**TEXT**: *Georgia and the American Experience* and many other resources; including regular use of current event articles and primary source documents will be used for instruction. The students will have access to an online textbook with a login and password, which is listed below. We will also be using GPB resources. Those resources can be found at [www.gpb.org/ga-studies](http://www.gpb.org/ga-studies).

**Student Login – cobb-ga8**

**Password – peachstate18**

**COURSE CONTENT**: In Georgia Studies, or Georgia in the context of the American experience, the content is both knowledge and skills-based. The emphasis is on the following strands, from a Georgia perspective: geography; history; social, cultural, and economic issues; civics, and government. The core skills that will be built upon include: information processing, especially higher-level critical thinking, reading, listening, and writing; identifying and using primary and secondary sources; document-based written analysis; problem solving; time chronology; maps and globes; research; and civic participation.

G*uides for the general categories of study and approximate schedule for the year comprise the following:*

**Quarter 1-2:**

* Georgia’s Beginnings
* Georgia’s Colonization
* Georgia Statehood
* Civil War and New South

**Quarter 3-4:**

* 20th Century Georgia
* Civil Rights
* Modern Georgia
* State and Local Government and Juvenile Justice
* Personal Finance

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

* Varied assessments will be used during each unit; length of units will vary.
* Help sessions will be available each Friday morning at 8:15. Other help will be available by appointment only.
* Current event analysis (usually relating to Georgia Studies) will be assigned regularly.
* Every quarter there will be at least one major and/or minor performance task (project).
* Homework can be expected regularly with frequent check-up assessments in class.
* Student progress reports are sent home regularly and as needed; grades are available on Synergy.
* Parents can e-mail or call me at school with questions. E-mail is the quickest response method.

**REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS:**

Students are expected to use their East Cobb REP (Respect, Effort, Pride)

1. Be in their seats when the bell rings.
2. Have the proper materials for learning, including a positive attitude.
3. Use proper paper headings and submit all formal assignments (e.g. projects/essays) in blue or black pen, but typewritten is preferred.
4. Respect everyone, as well as all property.
5. Work on social studies during social studies class – no personal grooming or working on other subjects during this class (unless specific permission is granted).
6. Follow **all** school rules!

**HOMEWORK AND ABSENCE POLICY:**

* Homework is due on the date specified when it is assigned (usually the next day). All homework assigned will be posted on the board each day, as well as on the website listed at the top of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to record the assignment in his or her planner. **Late homework (unless related to an absence) is accepted only one day late, and it will be given half-credit. Please see the teacher with any concerns about late work.**
* Projects and essays are due on the date specified but will be accepted late with a ten point per day deduction.
* Classwork will be converted to homework if not complete during class time. Please follow policy above.
* In the case of an excused absence, make-up work is accepted for the number of days’ absence plus one day, unless special arrangements have been agreed upon. Tests missed during an absence must be made up in a timely fashion, usually before or after school. If a student returns to school on a test date that was announced prior to the student’s absence, then the student must take the test as regularly scheduled unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances documented in a note from the parent or guardian.

**GRADING SCALE EXPLANATION:**

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| **Summative Assessments:** Tests/Projects/DBQ | 45% |
| **Formative Assessments:**  Quizzes/Extended Response Questions/Performance Tasks | 30% |
| **Daily Work:** Journals/Portfolio/Classwork  | 20% |
| **Homework**  | 5% |

**PLEASE NOTE**: This syllabus is subject to change. Classes will be notified when a change is made.

**\*ADVANCED CONTENT CLASSES:**

**The following criteria will be used to remain in an Advanced Content (AC) class:**

The curriculum and instructional strategies for this course are differentiated in content, pacing, process skills emphasis, and expectation of student outcomes from the typical 8th social studiescourse.  Curriculum content has been designated for mastery and extension of state and district content standards.  The course is appropriate for students who have high achievement and interest in social studies. The district has established guidelines that identify students who will be successful with advanced curriculum offered in social studies.  Students are placed in this class according to specified indicators of demonstrated ability and motivation.  Students must meet continuation criteria (see below) to remain in the class.

\*The following criteria will be used to remain in an AC class:

Students must receive an 80% or above at the end of each 9 week grading period, or the student will be placed on probation.  This probation continues for at least 9 weeks.  If the grade drops below an 80% during the probation period, the student may be removed from the AC class**.  *(After 9 weeks, students may be reinstated in that AC class, depending on performance in the on-level class.)***

GA Studies Syllabus

I have received the GA Studies syllabus, and I understand my responsibilities as a student in my Social Studies class:

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent name – print)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian signature)

Parent e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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