



Teacher: Diane Bailey-Isaacs

Email: diane@wacs.us

Room: 254

8th Grade Humanities Syllabus

Course Description:

Welcome to 8th grade Humanities! This year you will be challenged to build upon your existing knowledge and command of the English language as well as the history of our state, Georgia. You will begin from your own personal starting points in reading, writing, speaking, geography, and history. You will progress and improve in all areas throughout the course of the school year. Everyone in this classroom will be successful!

This year, you will become a more experienced reader through analysis, deep thinking, and discussion of a wide range of literature. We will read books, excerpts, articles, and other written material together as a class, in small groups, and individually.. Additionally, you will be required to read a book of your choice nightly. My hope is that you will develop a life-long passion for reading throughout this Humanities course!

As a writer, you will explore and use written language in complex and creative ways. You will write in a variety of genres (narrative, expository, and argumentative), continually revising your work based on critique from your peers and your teacher. There will be ample opportunity for partner and small group work, as well as individual conferencing with the teacher.

Units of Study:

1. Setting the Stage
2. Before it was Georgia
3. Colonial Georgia
4. The Pioneer Spirit
5. Divided Nation
6. Georgia Enters the Second Century
7. Rise of Modern Georgia
8. Modern Georgia
9. American Government & Citizenship
10. State & Local Government

Materials Needed:

Each student will need to have their materials daily. The required materials are:

- A 1 inch red 3 ring binder
- A composition notebook
- A pair of headphones or earbuds
- Writing utensils
- Highlighters
- Glue sticks
- Coloring utensils
- Sticky Notes

Class Culture:

In order to reach our full potential, we all need to strive to create a peaceful, safe learning environment. This is achieved through mutual respect and acceptance of a variety of ideas, opinions and beliefs. Our goal is to focus on being respectful, responsible, and remarkable every day.



Grading:

Westside utilizes a standards based grading system that uses a scale from 1-4

- 1 - Standard Not Met
- 2 - Approaching Standard
- 3 - Standard Met
- 4 - Exceeding Standard

Infinite Campus will be the student information system used by Westside. Login information will be provided.

Student Work

Notebook organization is an ongoing processing skill. The student's notebook is a resource for curriculum material and it should be consistent with the material that has been distributed in class. Student work will be sent home every four weeks. It will be the student's responsibility to share this work with you. A signature card will be included for both the parent and student to sign indicating that the work has been reviewed and discussed.

Homework

Students are expected to read something of their choosing for 30 minutes each night. We will log our nightly reading on Biblionasium.com. Homework will be as needed, and written on the board for the students to write down in their agendas. Students may not have written homework each night, but they are expected to look over the notes from the Social Studies portion of Humanities every night.

Late Work:

Students are required to turn in all assignments on the given due date and time. Most assignments are due at the beginning of class. Students will be informed if this is not the case.

Homework, class work, and project work turned in late will receive a maximum of a 3, and must be turned in within two weeks of the due date. Special circumstances regarding late work can be discussed on an individual basis, but will only be approved at the teacher's discretion. Please feel free to get in touch with me via email to discuss special circumstances/ accommodations.

Absence Make-Up Work:

If a student is absent on a given due date, he or she may submit the work assigned prior to the absence or on the day of his/her return. Any previously assigned work submitted after the student's return date is considered late. If a student is absent, it is also his/her responsibility to ask a peer or teacher for any notes or warm-ups that he/she may have missed.

It is the student's responsibility to find out about, and turn in, any missed assignments due to absences. The student will have as many days as he/she was absent to complete the missed assignments before assignments will be considered late. These make up days will begin the day the student returns to school. If a student knows he/she will be absent ahead of time, please inform the teacher to receive any available assignments prior to the absence. Any student who plans to be absent for 5 or more consecutive days may set up a contract for independent study through the teacher.

Students will submit the work for credit upon their return.

Technology Policy:

Westside Atlanta Charter School (WACS) retains sole right of possession of all iPads, Chromebooks and related equipment (now referred to as "device"). Devices will be issued to students according to the guidelines set forth in the WACS technology contract. The technology team and school administration retain the right to inspect and/or collect a device at any time and to alter, add, or delete installed software or hardware. In order to be able to access a school-



issued device, each student must have a signed technology contract on file. This contract must be signed by the student and the parent to show agreement.

Uniforms:

MIDDLE GRADES (5TH - 8TH GRADES)

BOYS	GIRLS
<p style="text-align: center;">Tops: OXFORD shirts (long or short sleeved) White, Light Blue Westside logo optional</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tops: OXFORD shirts or blouses (long or short sleeved) White, Light Blue Westside logo optional</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Bottoms: Khaki pants or shorts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bottoms: Khaki pants, shorts, or skirt</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Shoes: Closed toe athletic shoes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shoes: Closed toe athletic shoes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Classroom Outerwear: Westside sweatshirt Plain* navy blue fleece, sweater, or vest NO HOODS OR HATS *Westside logo optional, no other logos permitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Classroom Outerwear: Westside sweatshirt Plain* navy blue fleece, sweater, or vest NO HOODS OR HATS *Westside logo optional, no other logos permitted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Playground/P.E. Outerwear: Students may wear any coat/outerwear of their choice outside the building or in the gym</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Playground/P.E. Outerwear: Students may wear any coat/outerwear of their choice outside the building or in the gym</p>

Purchasing Uniforms:

Uniforms can be purchased from a variety of retailers including Target, Walmart, Old Navy, Lands End and Zeus' Closet. Westside Sweatshirts and logoed oxford shirts can be purchased at school. There is a gently used uniform closet in Catherine Perry's office (media center) available to all Westside families.

Parent/Student Handbook:

The parent/student handbook is an important resource that details the expectations for Westside students and their families. It is important that both the student and their parents read the handbook which is available on the Westside website.

Additional Information:

I am so happy to be part of the Westside Atlanta Charter School community! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me! I look forward to working with your family this school year.

NOTE: This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary.



Dear Parent(s):

Please review and discuss this syllabus with your student. Please sign below indicating that you and your student have read and understand the parent/student handbook and the syllabus for this class.

Student's Printed Name: _____ Student's Signed Name: _____

Parent's Printed Name: _____ Parent's Signed Name: _____

**** Please return this sheet to your student's teacher.****