

# PETERS TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL

## COURSE SYLLABUS: 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Information	Teacher Information
<u>Course Length</u> : Full Year	<u>Ms. Giaquinto, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Maiolo</u>

### **Course Overview and Essential Skills**

The seventh grade social studies curriculum is rigorous and fast-paced as it encompasses a study of three nations: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The first quarter of the school year will be dedicated to a brief study of Canada followed by a more thorough study of Mexico's history, starting with the Maya and Aztec indigenous tribes and culminating with present-day Mexico. The remainder of the school year will be comprised of an in-depth study of United States history beginning with the American Revolution and ending with Reconstruction. Essential skills students will develop throughout the course of the school year will include the following: outlining and notetaking skills, close reading, map analysis and geography skills, test-taking skills, analysis of primary and secondary sources, determining bias in documents, political cartoon analysis, and essay writing and development.

### **Course Textbook, Supplemental Resources, and Required Materials**

#### **Textbooks:**

- *The Americas* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2012) & ISBN#: 978-0-547-48482-2
- *A Brief History of Mexico: The Classic Period to the Present*
- *United States History: Beginnings to 1877* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2012) & ISBN#: 978-0-547-48469-3
  - Accessing these texts online
    - **Step 1:** Go to the following link: <http://my.hrw.com/>
    - **Step 2:** Log in using your school username and student number
    - **Step 3:** Click the link that states: Go to the Online Textbook

#### **Materials:**

- Pencil or Pen
- 3 ring binder with 5 dividers
- Notebook paper or notebook

### **Course Outline of Material Covered:**

Unit or Topic	Course Activities/Resources	Timeframe
Canada: A general overview	Outlines, maps, and unit exam	Approximately one week
Mexico: Classic Period to Colonial New Spain	Outlines, maps, essay, political cartoons, reenactments, primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exam	Approximately one week
Mexico: Independence to the Porfiriato	Outlines, maps, political cartoons, reenactments, primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exam	Approximately two weeks

Mexico: Revolution to the Present	Outlines, maps, political cartoons, reenactments, primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exam	Approximately one week
United States: Our Colonial Heritage (American Revolution)	Outlines, maps, political cartoons, reenactments, video clips from <i>John Adams</i> , primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exams	Approximately three weeks
United States: A New Nation (Forming a Government, Launching a Nation)	Outlines, maps, political cartoons, reenactments, video clips from <i>John Adams</i> , primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exams	Approximately two-three weeks
United States: The New Republic (Jeffersonian Era, A New National Identity, The Age of Jackson, Manifest Destiny)	Outlines, maps, political cartoons, reenactments, <i>The French Revolution</i> documentary, primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exams	Approximately eight weeks
United States: The Nation Expands (Westward Expansion, Changing Economies, New Movements, Sectionalism/A Divided Nation)	Outlines, maps, political cartoons, reenactments, primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exams	Approximately eight weeks
United States: The Nation Breaks Apart (The Civil War and Reconstruction)	Outlines, maps, political cartoons, reenactments, video clips from <i>Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman</i> , primary and secondary source analysis, and chapter exams	Approximately seven to eight weeks

***\*Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***