

Mr. Shirley's Syllabus
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 8th Grade: Georgia Studies
 GSE: SS8H, SS8G, SS8CG, SS8E

Georgia Standards of Excellence.

**Eight Grade
 Georgia Studies**

In eighth grade, students study Georgia geography, history, government & civics, and economics. While the four strands are interwoven, ample opportunity is also provided for in-depth study of the geography of Georgia and the government of Georgia. U.S. historical events are included, as appropriate, to ensure students understand Georgia's role in the history of the United States.

What the student should and should not do to ensure they have a successful 8th grade experience.

Should Do	Should Not Do
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respect yourself, teachers, staff, students, and any guest that may be in the classroom. 2. Be in your seat when the bell rings. 3. Bring your materials to class every day. 4. Maintain a neat and organized notebook. Your notebook will be essential when it comes time to study for exams and they will be checked and quizzed periodically.* 5. Complete all assignments on time to receive full credit (earned). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do Not be a distraction to the teacher and the other students. 2. Do not let your Cell Phone (If you have one) utilize your attention.** 3. Do Not talk during a Quiz or Test.*** 4. Do Not pack up your belongings early.

Notes: * I recommend that your notebook be a minimum of a 1" three-ring binder. You will be placing all handouts and assignments in the binder as the class covers each of the regions. There will be surprise quizzes covering the material that is required to be in the notebook. These quizzes are open note quizzes and are designed to monitor the student's participation within the class and assignments.

** If your cell phone becomes a problem, you will be asked to place the phone in your phone cubby and you will be able to retrieve it at the end to the class. If the problem becomes a habit, you will be required to place the phone in the cubby as soon as you walk in to the classroom. If you refuse, you will be sent to the office and your parents/ guardian will be notified.

*** If you are caught talking during any test or quiz, your paper will be collected and you will not be allowed to continue with the test. Your parents/ guardian will be notified immediately.

Quizzes

Throughout the year, there will be quizzes over the material that is covered in class and vocabulary quizzes from each of the units. PAY ATTENTION

Tests

There will be a test over every unit that we cover in class. Study guides will be provided prior to each test. The study guides are intended to assist the student prepare for the exam. They will not be an assignment entered into the grade book. It is up to the student to use them and prepare. They will be paper or on Canvas.

IF you are absent on a test/ quiz day: Excused absence you will have 3 days to make up the test/ quiz. Unexcused absence, you will make the test/ quiz up the day you return to school. It is the student's responsibility to come to me for the exam. I will not be chasing any student to take the test. If the student does not make the exam up, within the given time, it will enter the grade book as a ZERO (0). I will be putting a grade of M (Missing) in the grade book the day of the exam as a reminder for the student and parents.

Absences/ Make Up Work.

Make up work is the responsibility of the student, not mine. If you are absent, Excused or Unexcused, it is you, the student, who needs to ensure you get caught up. Ask a classmate or me, the teacher, what you missed and for help. When I state that it is your responsibility, I am stating, I will not seek you out.

Homework

I am one who does not believe in bogging my students down with homework. With that being stated, if a student comes home with homework, it is for one of the following reasons...

- a. Refusal to participate in class and complete his/ her work.
- b. The class is working on a project. At times, we will be doing projects. To ensure that the students are afforded the opportunity to finish the project, work will be required to be done at home.
- c. If a student is absent for any reason the make-up work will be required to be completed at home.
- d. This year is going to be a different year. If a student is a virtual student, there will be homework. All assignments must be turned in as well. No Excuses!

Student Notebooks

Student's Notebook in Social Studies will be checked weekly. **The check will be a grade.** Students will be required to maintain a clean and organized notebook. They will need to ensure they are able to locate all Notes, Vocabulary and Articles of the Week for study purposes. As part of organization, each student will be required to have a neat and clean notebook.

Article of the Week (AOW)

Students will be required to do an assignment known as the Article of the Week. This is a required assignment and will be graded as such. To ensure that the students read the article and do the written portion, there will be surprise AOW Quizzes. I take the Article to the Week very seriously and so should our students.

Extra Credit

I do believe in extra credit. Students will have multiple opportunities to earn extra credit while in my class. These Extra Credit opportunities will not be announced ahead of time. Students need to pay attention and expect the Extra Credit announcement at any time. Extra Credit is not the same as bonus points on exams.

Grades/ Grading

Grades follow State and MCSD Guidelines.

- A: 90 and Above
- B: 80 – 89
- C: 70 – 79
- F: 69 and below

Blackmon Road Middle School Grading Guideline:

Summative Assessments: 65% of Overall Grade

Formative Assessments: 35% of Overall Grade

Late Assignments

Assignments turned in late will automatically have 35 points deducted from the grade. I will not be accepting work that is late for more than 7 days. After the seventh day, I will be replacing the M (Missing) grade with a Zero (0). Assignments turned in with no name will be put on display for three (3) days. If the student does not claim it, the assignment will be thrown in the trash.

Student Supplies

The following is a list of supplies the student will need for their 2020-2021 8th Grade Social Studies class.

1 or 1 ½" Three-Ring Binder*
Pencil*
Lined Paper

Pen
Colored Pencils
Highlighter(s)

There will be **NO** community supplies in my classroom this year. The only supplies that I require ASAP are the supplies with the *. Please be advised that not having the supplies immediately WILL NOT be held against you, the student. If there are any questions, please ask.

Donating Supplies

If you would like to donate any supplies to the class, here is a list that will always be appreciated (Please remember that this list is NOT MANDATORY but always welcome):

Pencils	Copy Paper
Paper Towels	Kleenex
Hand Sanitizer	Lysol Wipes

Virtual Students

During Virtual/ Distant Learning, I need you to understand that all classroom policies remain set. All Zoom Classes will be recorded.

Assignments

All due dates must be met. The same grading policy will apply to all virtual students as stated above. Assignments will be due on the date designated, by the end of your class period. The due dates and times will be posted in the Assignment section on Canvas. Remember Late is Late! Make sure you look at the calendar to identify due dates and the assignments. All assignments will be entered into the grade book just as if you were in the classroom. Assignments will be located on different platforms (Canvas, Achieve3000, Gallopade, etc.)

Tests/ Exams & Quizzes

All tests/exams and quizzes will be completed through Canvas and Zoom, with me as your observer. All Exams and Quizzes in Canvas WILL HAVE a Time Limit. Make sure you pay attention to the timer.

Attendance

Make sure you follow the Virtual Schedule and ensure you arrive to the Zoom Meeting early/ on time. Attendance will be taken daily. You are responsible to be in class on the assigned day and time, just as if you were in a traditional school setting. The students are required to be in the Zoom Meeting for the entire duration and only leave when released by the teacher.

Thank you.

Brian Q. Shirley

Brian Q. Shirley
Blackmon Road Middle School
8th Grade Georgia Studies

This year is going to be a challenge for all: students, parents, teachers, and administration. If we all work together and listen to each other, we can get through it.

Parents & Students please read each section on the next page that requires your printed name and signature in three spots.

Please follow the instructions on this page and return it to me ASAP! (Return this page only)

This Section is to be completed by the Student:

I, _____, have received and read a copy of the syllabus for Mr. Shirley's 8th Grade Georgia Studies class. Mr. Shirley has gone over the syllabus with the class and has afforded me the opportunity to express any concerns I may have. My signature attests that I accept the rules and requirements, of me, set forth in this syllabus.

Student Signature

Date

This Section is to be completed by the Parent(s)/ Guardian(s):

I, _____, the parent/ guardian of _____ have also read and understand the rules and requirements outlined within Mr. Shirley's syllabus. I also know that if I have any questions I may contact Mr. Shirley via email or by phoning Blackmon Road Middle School.

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) Signature

Date

Movie Permission

_____ Yes, I give my Son/ Daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate film/ videos related to classroom content and subjects. I understand that any movie shown will have an MPAA rating of G, PG, or PG-13.

_____ NO, I do not give my Son/ Daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate film/ videos related to classroom content and subjects. I understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) Name (Please Print)

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) Signature

Date

Photo/ Image Permission

I DO DO NOT give Mr. Shirley permission to use my Sons/ Daughters photo/ image on the School Website or in any presentation within the classroom or school.

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) Name (Please Print)

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) Signature

Date