



## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Title	Teachers
Social Studies Grade 8	Greg Sitch and Joanne King

### Course Description

8th Grade Social Studies is a year-long course, based on curriculum standards from the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) and the Common Core Reading and Writing Standards for History. Combined with 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts, a Humanities model is followed, which means that, while Social Studies and English Language Arts are still two separate courses, there will be significant overlap and reinforcement between the two in the skills of Reading, Writing, Research and Technology. The over-arching theme for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies is: “Revolutions: What is a revolution?”

### Topics /Activities - Semester 1: August-December

#### The Scientific Revolution

- Starting with the Italian Renaissance
- Focus on the history standard of “Time, Continuity, and Change”
- Focus on the Technology standards of “Science, Technology and Society”
- Independent research on scientific breakthroughs around the world

#### Socio-Cultural Revolution: The Reformation and Counter-Reformation

- Focus on anthropology standard of “Culture and Cultural Diversity”
- Focus on sociology standard of “Individuals, Groups, and Institutions”
- Protestant Reformation and Catholic Counter-Reformation
- Independent research on other social and cultural reform movements around the world

### Topics /Activities - Semester 2 : January-June

#### Week Without Walls Service Learning Project

- Focus on anthropology standard of “Culture and Cultural Diversity”
- Focus on psychology standard of “Individual Development and Identity”
- Service Learning Collaboration CCC Children’s Home in Wolaita Soddo

#### Political Revolution: French, American and Latin American Revolutions

- Focus on history standard of “Time, Continuity, and Change”
- Focus on politics / government standard of “Power, Authority, and Governance”
- Independent research on other political revolutions around the world

#### Economic Revolution: The Industrial Revolution

- Focus on economics standard of “Production, Distribution, and Consumption”
- Focus on globalization standard of “Global Connections”
- Connections to the global economics of today
- Independent research on economic revolutions around the world

## Basis of Student Assessment and Grades

Students will be assessed separately on their achievement and effort using the standards and benchmarks established by the school for this course. (See ICS Assessment Policy, August 2015). Assessments used to measure academic achievement include: literary analysis pieces, expository / informational, persuasive and narrative writing, Socratic seminars, presentations, debates, in class observations, independent inquiry projects, quizzes, tests, and performance pieces.

## Effort and Attitude Expectations

Commitment to Learning	Commitment to Learning	Commitment to Learning
Student: -Tries to improve their work by seeking out extra help or asking and answering challenging questions ( <i>INQUIRER</i> ) -Shows work that demonstrates their best effort ( <i>THINKER</i> ) -Is fully engaged in the lesson ( <i>KNOWLEDGABLE</i> ) -Uses feedback effectively to produce best work ( <i>REFLECTIVE</i> )	Student: -Tries to improve their work by seeking out extra help or asking and answering challenging questions ( <i>INQUIRER</i> ) -Shows work that demonstrates their best effort ( <i>THINKER</i> ) -Is fully engaged in the lesson ( <i>KNOWLEDGABLE</i> ) -Uses feedback effectively to produce best work ( <i>REFLECTIVE</i> )	Student: -Tries to improve their work by seeking out extra help or asking and answering challenging questions ( <i>INQUIRER</i> ) -Shows work that demonstrates their best effort ( <i>THINKER</i> ) -Is fully engaged in the lesson ( <i>KNOWLEDGABLE</i> ) -Uses feedback effectively to produce best work ( <i>REFLECTIVE</i> )

## Required Materials

Students should bring a water bottle, light snack, planner / agenda, text / preparatory materials, fully charged laptop (plus charger, USB, adapter and headphones), a pen, pencil and highlighter to class.

## Texts

Shared class texts include History Alive! Teachers Curriculum Institute (TCi) materials and Document Based Questioning (DBQs); plus a wide range of supporting primary, secondary and multimedia source materials

## Teacher Contact Details

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## Moodle Link

<http://elearning.icsaddis.edu.et/course/view.php?id=438>