



Sharyland High School

Special Topics In Social Studies

Course Syllabus

Teacher: Mr. R. Barbosa
Room: 213 – SA³ (200) Building
Phone: (956) 580-5300 ext. 1369
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Course Description:

Part One: This course is a project-based learning survey of the major pop cultural entertainment trends throughout the eras of American history from the late 19th Century to today. We will explore the evolution of amusement from the arts of performance, music, motion pictures, television, and digital media. Demonstrating how social, political, and economic development impacted pop culture and its diffusion of American supremacy around the globe.

Part Two: This course is an in-depth project-based survey of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or Soviet Union's history. We will explore the republic's establishment through its 1917 Revolution and explore its role in aiding the Allies in World War II and the ideological struggle of the Cold War till its dissolution. The course will also analyze the technological innovations and achievements of the Soviet Union.

Project-Based Course Description:

This course is a project-based learning experience, in which the majority of grades will be attributed to working on projects pertaining to the class and at times working cooperatively. The weekly schedule of the course will usually alternate between two projects: one in which the class is working together for the entire semester and the other which will change week to week, and will be individual or group. Projects will have final and presentation grades (major) and checkpoint/progress grades (minor) in between.

Course Agenda/Outline:

American Amusement Studies (Part One)	Soviet Studies (Part Two)
Performance: From the "Big Top" to Broadway	Revolutionary Beginnings (1917 – 1927)
Music: From Vinyl to MP3	Stalinist Rule (1927 – 1953)
Motion Picture: From Silent Film to IMAX	Post-Stalin Era (1953 – 1964)
Television: From Technicolor to Streaming	Brezhnev Era (1964 – 1982)
Digital: From Atari to Apple	Dissolution & Collapse (1982 – 1991)

Course Supplies:

- Loose Leaf Paper
- Headphones or Earbuds
- Pencils or Pens

Optional Supplies (If Preferred, By Student):

- Paint Brush Set
- Paint or Permanent Marker Set
- Acrylic Paint Set

*A class set of these optional supplies are provided when a project is being done.
However, not all the colors or brush quality requested by a student may be available.*

Classroom Rules:

- Arrive to class on time and be in your assign seat when the bell rings.
- Be prepared to class with all your supplies and assignments.
- Respect others and their property. **(Clean Up After Yourself)**
- Wait until the teacher dismisses you. The bell does **NOT** dismiss you.
- Raise your hand or wait politely to speak, if others are speaking.

Classroom Procedures:

- Class resources can be accessed off the course’s Google Classroom page. The Class Twitter, Remind, Instagram, and Snapchat also display important class announcements and due dates.
- Assignments can be turned in on paper in class by the end of the school day or online via e-mail to rbarbosa@sharylandisd.org or on the Google Classroom by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.
- Teacher permission and a hall pass are **required** to leave the classroom.

Contact Information:

Tutorials, conferences, and office hours are available afterschool or by appointment. Prior arrangements or appointments are preferred.

Direct Extension: (956) 580-5300 ext. 1369

Course Grading Policy:

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

Class Assignment Grade Weights	
Minor Grades: Daily Checkpoints, etc.	40 %
Major Grades: Projects, Presentations, Reports, etc.	60 %
Course Total:	100 %

Grade Scale	
A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-0

The following district policies apply to retesting and redoing an assignment:

- *“All students will be given up to three additional school days to redo a **FAILING MAJOR ASSIGNMENT**, but the grade will be no higher than a 70. The teacher has the option of assigning an alternative major assignment and may require additional tutoring, assignments, etc., as appropriate. The teacher will indicate in the gradebook that the assignment was redone. **This provision does NOT apply to Pre-AP, Dual Enrollment (taught by Sharyland ISD teachers), or AP students.**”*
- *“All students will be given three additional days (two days for Pre-AP, AP, and DE taught by SISD teachers) to make up **LATE MAJOR ASSSIGNMENT** and may be required additional tutoring, assignments, etc., as appropriate (with a progressive grade penalty of 10 points per day, 15 points per day for Pre-AP/AP/Dual Enrollment, taught by Sharyland ISD teachers). **Pre-AP/AP/Dual Enrollment (taught by Sharyland ISD teachers) students will NOT be allowed to submit late minor work.**”*

Attendance/Make-Up Work:

Daily class attendance is vital to ensuring class success. The following district guidelines apply for make-up work when a student is absent:

- *“Students with an **EXCUSED ABSENCE** from school (including off-campus suspension) will have the opportunity to make up missed work at the rate of one day for one day missed, with a maximum of five days. Student will receive a zero for any major or minor assignment not made up within the allotted time.”*
- *“Students with an **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE** may not make up missed work; however, if the unexcused absence is determined to be caused by an extenuating circumstance, makeup work may be allowed. The grade for the makeup work will be no higher than a 70.”*

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of our school. **“No student shall cheat or copy the work of another. Plagiarism, the use of another person’s original ideas or writings as one’s own without giving credit to the true author, will be considered cheating, and the student will be subject to academic discipline that may include loss of credit for the work in question.”**