



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
shs.sharylandisd.org/faculty/rbarbosa

Course Description:

Part One: This course is a project-based learning survey of modern American pop cultural and industrial innovations and developments. Ranging from the design, development, and production history of iconic American products, such as toys like Hot Wheels and Mr. Potato Head, to technology, like the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle and the airplanes developed by William Boeing. Aside from production, the history of pop cultural creations that have become icons will be explored, from food empires like McDonalds and Hershey's to entertainment conglomerates in television and film.

Part Two: This course is an in-depth project-based survey of modern American sports from the 20th and 21st Century, exploring their historical origins and developments to the economic and entertainment powerhouses they are today. Beginning with the classic American pastime, the course will explore the rise and development of baseball in the United States and continue into the sports of basketball and football, exploring the social and cultural barriers broken and how the sports served not only as a medium of entertainment, but of progress; concluding with an exploration of how the modern Games of the Olympiad bring all that together.

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, as a capstone project, and the other which will change week to week, and will be individual or group.

Course Agenda/Outline:

Made in America Studies (Part One)	Modern American Sports Studies (Part Two)
Toy Titans: Building an Industry	American Pastime: Baseball
Masters of Invention: Industrial Innovations	Nothing But Net: Basketball
Snack-sized Developments: Food Empires	Lifetime of Sundays: Football
Pop Culture of Power: American Amusement	Faster, Higher, Stronger: Olympic Games

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.
- 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."**