



## Sierra Vista Junior High School • Seventh Grade History • Mr. Ippolito

Room 301 • rippolito@hartdistrict.org • <http://www.MrIppolito.com>

**Introduction** - Welcome to an exciting year in seventh grade history! I look forward to providing an environment where students can expand their knowledge of world history and geography, as well as develop their language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It will be awesome.

**Textbook & Materials** - See the Team Titans letter for a list of materials to help you be successful on our team. It certainly helps that students come to class prepared and equipped to do the work assigned. However, *no student will be denied access* to any part of the curriculum due to an inability to afford supplies or materials. Our textbook is *Medieval and Early Modern Times*. The full textbook is also available online at <http://j.mp/svtextbooks>

**Classroom Behavior Expectations and Academic Integrity** - Students will respect the rights of others as well as individual differences and perspectives and will work together with others to create a classroom atmosphere in which they and their classmates can learn and succeed. We will focus on building positive relationships between students and their peers and teacher. The Team Titans students should . . .

Be ready. Be respectful. Be responsible.

Students should conduct themselves at all times with academic integrity, contributing to an environment where everyone can do their own best work. See the Team Titans letter for a more details.

**Course Outline** - We will be focusing on the both the Common Core Literacy Standards for History/Social Studies, as well as the seventh grade social studies standards for the state of California as students journey through the following units:

1. **The Fall of Rome:** We briefly review the Roman Republic, its transformation into Empire, the factors that led to its destruction, and the impact that the Roman Empire has had on the last 1,500 years of history.
2. **The Rise of Islam:** The world's second largest religion had its roots in seventh century Arabia. We will learn about how the religion was formed, its beliefs, its people, and how Islam impacts the world today.
3. **Medieval West Africa:** We will learn about the medieval kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai, and how they contributed to the gold-salt trade that connected Europe, Africa, and southwest Asia.
4. **Meso-America:** We will study the art, architecture, and cultural advances of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca Empires, their interaction with European explorers, and these empires' ultimate destruction in the 16th century.
5. **Medieval China:** We will learn how the Q'in Dynasty helped to shape modern China, how the Mongols made their mark on Chinese history and culture, and how the Silk Road carried goods and ideas between China and Europe.
6. **Medieval Japan:** We will study the origins of the samurai and the bushido code. We will study feudalism in Japan and how that compared to feudalism in Medieval Europe. Finally, we will examine the rise of Buddhism in east Asia and its influence on Japanese culture.
7. **Medieval Europe:** We will learn what Europe was like after the fall of Rome. We will specifically focus on the transmission of knowledge and culture, the influence of the Church on life in Medieval Europe, and the transformative effect of the Black Plague.
8. **The Renaissance:** We will focus on the art, literature, architecture, and music of the European Renaissance. We will study how great writers and artists defined the period and incorporated influences from ancient Greece and Rome.

9. **The Reformation:** We will learn about the split in the Church, beginning with King Henry VIII's formation of the Church of England, and progressing with Martin Luther, John Calvin, and the beginning of the Protestant movement.
10. **The Age of Exploration:** We will learn about the explorers from Scandinavia, Spain, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, and England who claimed the Americas for glory, God, and gold.
11. **The Enlightenment and the Age of Reason:** We will learn how European thinkers such as Locke, Rousseau, Voltaire, and later American thinkers like Franklin and Jefferson inspired democratic revolutions in America and in Europe.

You can find the full California seventh grade social studies curriculum here: <http://j.mp/grade7history>

You can find the Common Core state standards here: <http://j.mp/ccshistory>

**Grading System** - Mr. Ippolito uses a Standards-Based Grading (SBG) system that is a blend between the grading system you are familiar with from elementary school, while transitioning into the letter grade system you will encounter in junior high and high school. With SBG, your Infinite Campus "report card" becomes a more accurate reflection of what you have truly learned in the class. Your Infinite Campus grade in my class will likely look very different than every other class. Instead of letter grades and percentages, you will see standards and a numerical level of proficiency for each standard. SBG is based on the idea that *every student learns at a different rate*. Multiple opportunities are given to take and re-take assessments until you get it right.

- An unmarked standard means we have not yet learned or assessed that standard.
- A **score of 0** means we assessed that standard, but at that time the student was absent or otherwise unable to complete the assessment.
- A **score of 1** means the student has made limited progress toward mastering the standard.
- A **score of 2** means the student has demonstrated progress toward mastering the standard.
- A **score of 3** means the student has met the standard.

**So, how do I calculate my grade?** - Because we still live in a world of letter grades, we have to make your standards scores translate to a letter grade for the course.

<u>Letter grade</u>	<u>Lowest score is a</u>	<u>Plus you must have successfully completed</u>
A+	3	6+ "Above and Beyond" Projects
A	3	4 "Above and Beyond" Projects
A-	3	2 "Above and Beyond" Projects
B+	3	1 "Above and Beyond" Project
B	3	-----
C	2	-----
D	1	-----
F	0	-----

**And that's it! No averages. No percentages. No percentages. No percentages.**

Each End-of-Quarter Exam can also have an impact on your grade. For full details on grading, Above and Beyond Projects to help you get an A, and to learn more about the Final Exam, click on the Grading Policy tab at: <http://www.mrippolito.com>

## Expectations

As your teacher, here is what you can expect from me to help you succeed in this course:

I will be prepared to teach each day.

The daily objectives, and agenda will be written on the whiteboard daily.

I will provide many opportunities for students to practice and receive feedback on the skills essential for success.

I will prepare interesting and engaging standards-based lessons.

I will be frequently available during break times (brunch and lunch) to assist students.

Here is what you, as a student, can do to be successful in my class:

Come to class on time, with your notebook and supplies, prepared to learn each day.

Complete your work to the best of your ability and turn it in on time.

Identify a fellow student that you can contact when you are absent from class to get assignments or extra help.

Use the Binder Reminder to organize your learning and keep track of your assignments.

Take responsibility for your learning.

Advocate for yourself and ask for help when you need it.

Use the online resources available at [www.Mrlppolito.com](http://www.Mrlppolito.com) to clarify assignments or work.

As a parent/guardian you can help your child by:

Taking an interest in your child's studies.

Talking with your child each night about what they learned in school and ask to see their notes or class work (tests will be kept in the classroom).

Helping your child develop good time management strategies.

Give your child an opportunity to advocate for him/herself independently before contacting the teacher.

Along with your child, use the online resources available at [www.Mrlppolito.com](http://www.Mrlppolito.com) to clarify assignments or work.

## Contact Information

Google Voice – 661-347-4990 (voice message or text message)

Classroom phone: (661) 252-3113 ext. 2301

E-mail: [rippolito@hartdistrict.org](mailto:rippolito@hartdistrict.org)

Web: <http://www.mrippolito.com>

## Get text alerts and reminders!

Students and parents can get class reminders (homework, quiz, test, team activities) sent directly to your phone via text message (standard carrier message rates apply). This is a great way for both students and parents to connect to Mr. Ippolito and Team Titans!

Text the word

**@titanhistory**

to

**23559**

*Let's have a great school year!*

