

# Eighth Grade Georgia Studies Course Syllabus 2015-2016



Pine Hill Middle School website: [rcboe.pinehill.org](http://rcboe.pinehill.org)

School Phone: 706-592-3730

Textbook: Georgia and The American Experience, Clairmont Press, Atlanta, 2005

Textbook website: [http://mystatehistory.com/georgia/ga\\_05/book.html](http://mystatehistory.com/georgia/ga_05/book.html)

**Course Description:** Students trace the history of Georgia in the context of the development of the U.S. as a whole. A chronological focus includes a look at pre-historic Georgia, through the foundations of Georgia in the 1700s, growth and conflict in the 1800s, and the state's development in the 20th century. Students also examine the characteristics of Georgia's geography, state government, public issues, and citizen rights and responsibilities. In addition, they explore contemporary and historical comparisons of state and national political institutions.

**Benefit to Students:** In eighth grade, students study Georgia geography, history, government, 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.

## **Course Outline:**

### **First Semester**

- Unit 1 Themes used in Social Studies
- Unit 2 Geography of Georgia and Prehistoric Georgia
- Unit 3 Exploration and Colonization
- Unit 4 Statehood
- Unit 5 Antebellum, Civil War and Reconstruction

### **Second Semester**

- Unit 6 The New South
- Unit 7 20<sup>th</sup> Century Georgia
- Unit 8 Post WWII
- Unit 9 Civil Rights
- Unit 10 Modern Georgia
- Unit 11 State and Local Government
- Unit 12 Adult and Juvenile

**Late Work:** Students are encouraged to turn in work in a timely manner. Ten points (one letter grade) will be deducted daily from work turned in late (other than in an absence/make-up situation).

**Absence/Make-up Procedure:** Upon returning to school following an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher within three (3) days to request make-up work. The student will be given

the same amount of time to make up the work as the student was absent unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon.

### **Procedures**

- Students should bring textbooks, notebooks and writing utensils each day. Students will not be allowed to go to lockers during class.
- Students enter the room, get materials ready, write in agendas, and complete the journal activity. Please be in your assigned seat working when the bell rings.
- Students should work quietly in assigned seats. Please ask for permission if you need to leave your seat. If your pencil breaks during class, raise your pencil, and I will trade with you until I can sharpen yours.
- All homework is due at the beginning of class or will be considered late.

### **Assignments**

- **Summative Assessments (30% of Grade)**
  - **Tests** may contain maps, graphs, terms, primary documents, and other items in the form of multiple choice, matching, short response, or essay. Students may correct missed test questions for additional points on test scores.
  - **Performance tasks** will be assigned relating to the unit being studied and may involve research, creativity and additional time outside of class. Guidelines and rubrics will be given for performance tasks.
- **Formative Assessments (60% of Grade)**
  - **Quizzes** check for preparation, attentiveness, comprehension, etc.
  - **Portfolios** include vocabulary activities and other items you submit to show your understanding of the standards.
  - **Oral presentations** will be opportunities for students to share information with the class.
  - **Participation, pop quizzes, class work**
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- **Homework (10% of Grade)**
  - **Homework-** Written homework is often completing an assignment started in class. In addition to written assignments, students need to review notes daily.
  - **Notebook** – Students are required to keep a Georgia Studies notebook (1 inch 3 ring binder with dividers). It should include all class work and homework (syllabus, notes, vocabulary, graphic organizers, maps, etc.) for each unit of study.

**Webpage:** Students and parents can locate my webpage at [rcboe.pinehill.org](http://rcboe.pinehill.org). Click on "staff and departments", "Darnell Grainger". All daily assignments and documents used in class (syllabi, graphic organizers, power point presentations, etc.) may be found here. The website also includes other information such as links to the online textbook and other helpful websites. There is also a printed calendar at the front of our classroom containing class work/homework. Please check the webpage or printed calendar for make-up work. Both are updated daily by 6:00 p.m.

**Communication:** Parents may contact me at (706)530-0418 or school by phone (706- 592-3730), by note in student agenda, or by e-mail. In addition, conferences may be requested to discuss a student's progress or behavior. My preferred method of communication is email:

[grainda@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:grainda@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)

**I look forward to working with you this year.**

D. Grainger  
Pine Hill Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies  
(706) 530-0418

**Remember to:**

1. Respect yourself, your classmates, your teachers, and your school.
2. Arrive in class on time and prepared.
3. Do your very best on all assignments.