**Ms. Akridge**

**8th Grade**

**MYP 3**

**Course Syllabus 2025-2026**

**Course Description and Objectives**

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.

**Standards**:

The Georgia Standards of Excellence for 8th Grade can be found here:

[social-studies-eighth-grade-standards.fe7106106760.pdf](https://media.cobbk12.org/media/WWWCobb/medialib/social-studies-eighth-grade-standards.fe7106106760.pdf)

**Textbook:**

Georgia 8th Grade Social Studies by Gallopade

**Unit/Concept Names:**

Unit 1: Connecting Themes   
Unit 2: Geography & American Indians   
Unit 3: Exploration & Colonization

Unit 4: Statehood   
Unit 5: The Civil War

Unit 6: The New South   
Unit 7: The 20th Century

Unit 8: Post WWII Georgia   
Unit 9: Civil Rights  
Unit 10: Modern Georgia   
Unit 11: State & Local Government   
Unit 12: Adult & Juvenile Justice   
Unit 13: Personal Finance 4 Days

**Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy**

* Minor Grades 60% (Regular Assignment)
  + **Minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = **5**
* Major Grades 40% (Test)
  + **Minimum number** of major grades per 6-week progress report period = **2**

**Academic Grading Scale**

A (90-100) B (80-89) C (75-79) D (70-74) F (below 70)

* Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
* Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus, the teacher cannot grant access.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as “incomplete” and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

**Late Work**

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student’s work habits through a behavior an academic contract. Students in grades 6-12 may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion. Completing work in a timely manner during the learning unit is essential for academic success. If the score is reduced for late work, the teacher must make a notation in the Infinite Campus comment section of the gradebook to reflect the reduction for late work. Students and parents should refer to the teacher’s course syllabus for specific late work procedures.

**Make-up Work**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back at school if the assessment was first announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards.

**Homework**

Homework will be given periodically throughout each Unit based on the completion of class assignments to check the knowledge of the students understanding. It will not be graded but may act as extra credit.

**Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)**

For grades 4-12, after any major assessment, students should have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students should be given a minimum of one opportunity to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment should be expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval. Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any **minor assessment**.

**AI Guidance**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance, or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The unauthorized or improper use of an artificial intelligence (AI) program constitutes academic dishonesty.

**Cell phones** are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. Students should turn cell phones off once on school property and place them in their bookbags.

**Behavior Expectations:** Students are expected to abide by the rules of conduct and behavior set by RCSS and Tutt Middle School. Behavior that will result in immediate disciplinary action includes failure to respect faculty, other students, and school property, failure to follow directions, disrupting the learning environment, lack of preparation for class, and any behavior that distracts from the objective of learning.

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations:**

1. Be on time and come to class prepared, ready to engage and participate during instruction.
2. Always show respect to your classmates and to Ms. Akridge.
3. No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. (Water is permitted.)
4. Practice respectful communication by raising your hand before speaking or getting up.
5. Take responsibility for your own actions, grades, and behavior.
6. Stay organized and study regularly—consistency is key to success.
7. Check Canvas regularly for assignments. If an assignment is not posted on Canvas, you will be informed in class. You are still responsible for completing all assigned work, whether it's on Canvas or not.
8. Monitor your academic progress by checking Infinite Campus regularly. It is your responsibility to stay informed about your grades and address any concerns in a timely manner.

**Important Reminder:**  
It is encouraged that students spend at least 15- 20 minutes each night reviewing notes or reading the textbook. This small daily habit will make a big difference in your success. The course covers a lot of material, so staying on top of it will make studying easier and far less overwhelming.

**Course Materials**

* Kleenex
* Hand Sanitizer
* Pencils
* Composition book
* Binder
* Loose-leaf paper
* Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils
* Poster paper, shoebox, and 1 trifold backboard will be needed at some point during the school year.

Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System’s policies and procedures.

**My contact information:**

**Email:** [AkridBo@BOE.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:AkridBo@BOE.richmond.k12.ga.us)

**Cell**: 678.466.0576

**Tutt Middle School Phone Number:** 706-737-7288

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Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to affirm that you have reviewed this document:

Print Student’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_