



Course Syllabus

Course Title: History, Grade 7

School Year: 2024-2025

Semester(s): 1 and 2

Grade Level(s): Grade 7

Course Day(s) and Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 am PST

Teacher Information

- **Name:** Keith Faulkner
- **Email:** keith.faulkner@brancheslearning.org
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

Class Materials - <https://brancheslearning.org/product/history-grade-7/#Materials>

Course Description: This 7th-grade social studies course focuses on exploring medieval and early modern world history while meeting California Social Studies Standards. Through project-based activities, students will investigate the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, covering Europe, Africa, and Asia. They'll analyze the political, economic, and social systems of these periods and their contemporary relevance. The course emphasizes critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills.

Students will engage in a study of the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the years A.D. 500–1789. They will examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities.

Students will learn about the resulting growth of the Enlightenment Philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings, the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students will assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment Period, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, as they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

Course Units

Unit 1: The Fall of Rome

Unit 2: Europe in the Middle Ages

Unit 3: Islam in the Middle Ages

Unit 4: Medieval Japan

Unit 5: Mesoamerica

Unit 6: The Renaissance

Unit 7: The Scientific Revolution

Unit 8: The Reformation

Course Expectations: Be prepared, attend from a quiet place, have your materials ready, have your camera on, be on time, participate, submit work in a timely fashion, treat others with respect, and ask for help when needed.

Grading Scale

Middle School, Grades 6-8

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

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

Important Branches Learning Policy Information

Camera Policy

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

Headset Policy

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

Attendance Policy

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to info@brancheslearning.org. Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

Late Work

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.