



Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

## Social Studies – Utah Studies Syllabus

Adrian Stumpp

Email: [astumpp@mariamontessoriacademy.org](mailto:astumpp@mariamontessoriacademy.org)

Blog: <http://blogs.mariamontessoriacademy.org/socialstudies/>

Room: P1-C1

### Course Description:

Utah is a state diverse in landscape and people. This course is designed to help students understand the state of Utah at a deeper level by reviewing Utah's early history, tracking its journey toward statehood, and exploring its place in the contemporary world. Students will understand the interaction between Utah's geography and its inhabitants, as well as the formative contributions of Native Americans, explorers, and Utah pioneers. The course will also investigate relationships between government and the people of Utah, the many opportunities people have to make a living in Utah, the diverse nature of Utah's people and cultures, and the impact of contemporary events on the land and people of Utah.

Our class topics will fit within the cycle theme of study:

*Orientation- Aug. 21-Sept. 8*

*Change- Sept. 11- Oct. 27*

*Forces- Oct. 30- Jan. 12*

*Power- Jan. 16- Mar. 15*

*Connections- Mar. 20- May 25*

### Course Expectations:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and on time. Students will need to be prepared to work each class period (having writing utensils available, follow directions, and bring their notebooks and binder each day). Students will also be expected to use speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills in this class. Students are encouraged to ask questions and be actively involved in learning and sharing their knowledge and experience with peers. Students are encouraged to accept accountability for the quality of their education. Students who demonstrate who demonstrate an ability to be responsible for their own education will receive a greater degree of freedom to choose their work than those who are not. Students are required to turn work in on time. If they cannot meet this requirement, it is the student's responsibility to seek appropriate accommodations from the instructor.

### Textbooks and Materials:

Students will use the textbook *Utah Journey* in the classroom, along with other books from the classroom library. Other useful resources and/or web links, when applicable, will be provided on the Social Studies blog listed above.

### Grading Plan:



What the Student Knows	Score	Traditional Letter Grade
<b>Exceeds Proficiency:</b> In addition to Score 85, the student uses inferences and applications that go beyond what was explicitly taught in class.	95	A+
In addition to Score 85 performance, partial success at inferences and applications that go beyond what was directly explicitly in class.	90	A
<b>Meets Proficiency:</b> No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught.	85	B+
No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and process and partial knowledge of the more complex ideas and processes.	80	B
<b>Approaching Proficiency:</b> No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.	75	C+
Partial knowledge of the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and procedures.	70	C
<b>Developing Proficiency:</b> With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.	65	D+
With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes but not the more complex ideas and processes.	60	D
Even with help, no understanding or skill demonstrated.	59	F

**Commented [Kw1]:** In a SBG system we do not weight assignments, we don't grade participation and we don't give extra credit.

**Course Policies:**

Student Work:

Students will use communication, creative thinking, problem solving, critical thinking, research and presentations, social participation and cooperation. Plagiarism is not allowed at all in the classroom. If plagiarism is used in written/oral assignment or exam, that student will receive a failing grade on that assignment and possibly the entire course.

Portfolio:

Work from journals, handouts, assignments/projects, reports, or tests can all be used in student portfolios.

Group Activities:



## Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

---

Students are expected to participate fully in group activities. Using cooperation and communication skills, students will work together to research, present, and share ideas.

### Homework Expectations:

Most of the work assigned should be able to be completed in class with no outside homework unless students need to meet assignment/project deadlines. **7<sup>th</sup> graders** will have the opportunity to participate in Utah's History Day competition instead of the science fair. (If they still want to do the science fair they can, though.) Working with the teachers, 7<sup>th</sup> graders will narrow down a topic, take notes over their research, and select a way to present their findings to the public. They will have to work on this project at home in addition to class time. For more information visit: <http://utahhistoryfair.weebly.com/>

### Reassessing Work:

Because our school uses Standards Based Grading to assess student proficiency, students are welcome to resubmit work to demonstrate growing proficiency. If students are unhappy with assessed level of proficiency on a given standard, they are encouraged to work with the teacher to establish an alternative means of demonstrating mastery. However, students must submit each assignment by its due date in order to determine a baseline proficiency. If at least an attempt at the assignment has not been turned in by the due date, the option for reassessment will not be available.

### Absences:

If you know in advance that you will be absent from class, please tell the instructor. You will have two days for each day that you miss class to turn in classwork that you missed.

Citizenship Grade: Students will be observed using their grace and courtesy on a daily basis.

### **Class Rules:**

Note: Students will help create class rules, expectations, and consequences the first couple weeks of school. Below are some examples:

**Raise your hand to speak**

**Walk to the person to speak to them**

**Slow deliberate movements**

**Be aware of what you are doing**



---

## Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

---

**Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated**

**Class Materials:**

All students will need the following: pencils or pens, composition or spiral notebooks, three-ringed binder, and a water bottle.

Donations of the following items are much appreciated: compasses, Utah maps, Utah postcards, composition notebooks, pencils, graphing paper, highlighters, erasers, glue sticks, scissors, boxes of tissues, rulers, black fine-tip sharpie markers, old magazines.

---

**I have read and understand the rules for \_\_\_\_\_ class.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_