

INSTRUCTOR

Mr. Wolfinger

PHONE

(312) 476-9404

EMAIL

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WEBSITES

www.wolfingersvirtualclassroom.com
<https://wolfos.site>

OFFICE LOCATION

Room 108

EXTRA HELP

Posted office hours and by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

World Studies is a year-long Grade 9 course exploring human development from the origins of the universe through the Renaissance and Reformation. Students examine how geography, belief, government, trade, technology, and cultural exchange shaped societies. The course emphasizes historical literacy through primary and secondary sources, discussion, research, document-based writing, and evidence-centered reasoning.

STANDARDS & ASSESSMENT

Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies are the primary standards, supported by the Illinois Social Science Standards. Mastery is measured through DBQs, ACT-style tests and quizzes, source analysis, writing, and other standards-aligned evidence.

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS

All core readings and digital materials are provided. The course includes selected excerpts or a class edition of Machiavelli's *The Prince*.

Students need a 2-inch three-ring binder, college-ruled loose-leaf paper, and two black or blue pens in a pencil pouch. Chromebooks will be issued from the classroom cart as needed.

PURPOSE OF COURSE

Welcome to World Studies. Through reading, discussion, investigation, comparison, and historical argument, students will develop a deeper understanding of diverse societies and the connections that shaped the world. Students will learn to ask strong questions, evaluate evidence, consider multiple perspectives, and communicate defensible conclusions.

WHY EDUCATION NOW?

Education creates choices. The habits developed in this class—showing up, reading carefully, asking questions, using evidence, revising work, and communicating respectfully—support success in high school, college, career, and civic life. Your effort matters, and help is available when you ask for it.

SKILLS YOU WILL ACQUIRE	WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE
Historical literacy	Close read complex texts; source, contextualize, corroborate, and cite evidence.
Inquiry & analysis	Ask meaningful questions; analyze cause, change, comparison, and perspective.
Communication	Write claims, explain reasoning, discuss respectfully, and present conclusions clearly.
Research & organization	Evaluate credible sources, take useful notes, manage materials, and meet deadlines.
Assessment readiness	Analyze passages, maps, charts, and data in DBQs and ACT-style assessments.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- Arrive on time, be seated, and begin the posted bell ringer. Late students must follow the class sign-in procedure.
- Bring the required binder, paper, and writing tools. Follow posted CHAMPS expectations for each activity.
- Participate respectfully, listen before responding, challenge ideas rather than people, and use evidence whenever possible.
- After an absence, check the course site and class materials and communicate about missing work. Required IEP, 504, and English Learner accommodations will be honored.
- Use classroom-cart Chromebooks carefully. Return each Chromebook to the correct slot and plug it in before leaving. Failure to follow these procedures may result in a grade reduction and temporary or permanent loss of classroom Chromebook privileges.
- Headphones require approval and must otherwise remain out of sight in a backpack. Students with translation accommodations may use approved headphones. Listening to music or unauthorized videos is misuse; the privilege may be revoked and a parent/guardian will be notified.
- Use feedback, correction opportunities, and revision to improve learning when permitted by the assignment and grading requirements.

DIGITAL USE

Classroom Chromebooks and other school technology are for assigned learning. Students must remain on approved sites and applications, protect passwords and personal information, evaluate online sources, respect copyright, and follow CPS acceptable-use expectations. Digital activity may be reviewed. Recording, photographing, posting, or sharing class content or another person without permission is prohibited.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING & AI

Students must submit work that honestly represents their own learning. Copying, answer-sharing, unauthorized collaboration, uncited use of another person's words or ideas, and submitting work produced by an AI system are plagiarism or cheating. AI tools may be used only when Mr. Wolfinger explicitly authorizes them. A confirmed violation will result in a zero for the assignment and may result in a failing course grade. When required or permitted by Orr Academy and CPS policy, the violation may also be permanently documented in the student's educational or disciplinary record and may be disclosed to colleges or universities as authorized or required by law and policy.

SEMESTER I

APPROX. WEEKS	SUBJECT	UNIT
1-2	Origins, Big History & Historian's Workshop	Unit 0
3-6	Human Origins & Agricultural Revolution	Unit 1
7-10	First Civilizations	Unit 2
11-14	Belief, Empire & Ancient Society	Unit 3
15-19	Classical Greece & Rome	Unit 4

SEMESTER II

APPROX. WEEKS	SUBJECT	UNIT
20-23	Classical India, China & Cultural Exchange	Unit 5
24-27	Africa & the Americas	Unit 6
28-33	Post-Classical / Medieval World	Unit 7
34-38	Renaissance, Reformation & Machiavelli's The Prince	Unit 8

ASSESSMENT PATTERN

Units use a consistent learning cycle: build background knowledge, investigate primary and secondary sources, discuss and write from evidence, receive feedback, and demonstrate mastery. DBQs and ACT-style tests or quizzes are the primary standards-based mastery measures. Daily practice, notebook work, source analysis, and discussion prepare students for those assessments.

COURSE NOTES

Dates are approximate and may shift to support student learning, the school calendar, and required reteaching. The Question Formulation Technique and Reading Like a Historian routines are explicitly taught by the end of Unit 2 and used throughout the year. This syllabus may be updated by the instructor; material changes will be communicated to students and families.

Learn deeply. Think critically. Use evidence. Lead responsibly.

I have reviewed and understand the syllabus for Mr. Wolfinger's World Studies course for the 2026-2027 academic year. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and discussed the course expectations, grading and mastery practices, digital-use expectations, academic-integrity policy, and communication procedures with my student.

I understand the importance of supporting attendance, preparation, honest work, respectful participation, and timely communication. I know that questions or concerns may be directed to Mr. Wolfinger using the contact information provided in this syllabus.

(Student's name)

(Student signature)

(Parent/guardian name)

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Date)

(Preferred email)

(Preferred phone)

(Best time/method to contact)

INFORMATION THAT WOULD HELP SUPPORT THIS STUDENT

Thank you for your partnership and support.

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