

Factory Shoals Middle School

8th Grade Social Studies

2025-2026 Course Syllabus

Dr. Justin Barlow

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School Website: <https://fsms.dcssga.org/>

Class Website: <https://bit.ly/barlowclasspage>

Schedule:

9:00-10:16 - 1st Period
10:18-11:27 - 2nd Period
11:29-1:00 - 3rd Period
1:02-2:14 - 4th Period
2:16-3:10 - 5th Period
3:12-4:06 - 6th Period

Tutoring: By appointment

Remind (www.remind.com): Text

Dr. Barlow 1st Period Social Studies - @drbarlow1

Dr. Barlow 2nd Period Social Studies - @drbarlow2

Dr. Barlow 3rd Period Social Studies - @drbarlow3

Dr. Barlow 4th Period Social Studies - @drbarlow4

Email (Justin.Barlow@dcssga.org) is the best way to reach me during the school year. I check it frequently and will reply within 24 hours. Students and Parents: Do not ever be afraid to reach out; we are partners in education!

Course Objective:

In eighth grade, students study Georgia geography, history, state/local 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.

The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. Students should be able to demonstrate understanding of **Georgia geography, Georgia's history in the role of The United States, state/local government, and economics** using knowledge and skills acquired during the school year. Understanding of these themes is not the end product of a single unit or lesson but the product of long term, ongoing instruction. The bold terms represent the connecting themes that appear in multiple units throughout this course. Enduring understandings transcend specific units and courses and increase student understanding and retention of knowledge.

Units of Study:

Unit 1-Connecting Themes for Social Studies
Unit 2-Geography of Georgia and the American Indians
Unit 3-Exploration and 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 and Local Government

Unit 12-Adult and Juvenile Justice System

Unit 13-Personal Finance

Textbooks:

<https://www.gallopade.com/>

Helpful Websites:

- Dr. Barlow's website: bit.ly/barlowclasspage
- Infinite Campus Parent Portal
- Classlink Student Portal
- Google Classroom
- Quizizz.com (Review Games)
- Quizlet.com (Flashcards)

Grading Policy:

Assessment/Tests and Projects - 40%
Classwork and Homework - 35%
Weekly Quizzes - 25%

Grading Scale:

A = 105-90
B = 89 to 80
C = 79 to 71
D = 70
F = 69 and below

Due Dates and Late Work:

Per Factory Shoals Middle School policy, it is each student's responsibility to ask for any missing assignment(s) or make-up work due to an absence(s) from a class(es). Students will be given **three days** for each day's excused absence to complete work. If a student has an unexcused absence(s), the student will be given one day to complete missing assignment(s). All missing assignment(s) will receive a zero.

Late work will be accepted up to 5 days after the due date. However, for each day late a deduction of 10 points will be given. After the fifth day, the assignment(s) will be considered missing and receive a zero. If a student needs to complete an assignment that must be completed in the classroom, they should come before school or after school.

Homework:

Students are expected to read independently for at least 30 minutes each night. Because of this, I do not regularly assign homework. However, this may change as the year progresses. Your child may also have to finish work that they didn't have time to finish in class.

Class Expectations: In this class, we ...

- Are Ready, Responsible, and Respectful
- Follow all school rules.
- Work together.
- Don't tease or bully each other.

Communication Expectations:

- Students are expected to copy the agenda message each day.
- Check Google Classroom often for assignments, due dates, and other information.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, or taking someone else's work or ideas and passing it off as your own, is not allowed and will result in a zero. Upon parent contact and completing the assignment correctly within a week of the due date, the student may receive a 55.

“Spirit of Excellence”