



## **Social Studies, Grade 7 (SOCS) 7A Syllabus**

### **Course Name**

SOCS 7A

Social Studies, Grade 7 – Semester A

### **Course Information**

SOCS 7A is the first semester of this two-semester course.

#### ***Texas History***

Texas—what a great state we live in! But who are we? We are a group of culturally diverse people. We are shaped by past historical events, experiences, and traditions that reflect the values and beliefs of all those who came before us. Have you ever been to Six Flags? Well, there is a unique tale behind each of those flags: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States, and the United States.

This course is designed to encourage you to think about the causes and effects of actions of the past. Every step along the way, things could have been different. We will try to see history through the eyes of the people who lived it. Imagine being an explorer shipwrecked off the coast of Texas, or a revolutionary huddled at the Alamo knowing Santa Anna and his men would soon attack. What thoughts would you have had as Texans debated whether to secede from the Union or not? When we better understand how people shaped the past, we can better understand how we can shape the future.

### **Course Delivery Method**

Online

### **Contacting Your Instructor**

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [www.k12.ttu.edu](http://www.k12.ttu.edu).

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. interpret visual materials through the use of graphs, pictures, and charts;
2. describe the major physical and cultural features of the regions of the state;
3. identify and explain the location, history, and cultures of the early inhabitants of Texas;
4. analyze the reasons for, locations of, and results of European exploration and colonization;
5. analyze reasons for and effects of Anglo-American settlement in Texas;
6. explain the reasons for and effects of the conflict with Mexico and the fight for independence;
7. describe the developments and events leading to annexation and statehood;
8. present the causes and results of the Mexican War;
9. analyze the reasons for and involvement of Texas and Texans in the Civil War;
10. interpret the political, economic, and social effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction; and
11. appreciate the unique contributions of notable individuals and groups representative of the various ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds in Texas.

SOCS 7 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/) website.

## Textbook and Resources

### **Textbook**

The required textbook for this course is:

- Anderson, et al. *Texas and Texans* (2003), Glencoe/McGraw-Hill. ISBN 0-07-823967-2.

This book is available only in a one-volume edition. It is used for SOCS 7A and 7B.

### **About the Textbook**

The textbook for this course, *Texas and Texans*, contains many special features. In each chapter you will find information presented in a variety of ways, as well as extra-help ideas. There are instructions for creating study organizers called Foldables™ which will help you summarize and organize information from your reading assignments. Reading check questions (in green boxes) will help ensure that you understood the main points of a section. “Exploring Geography” boxes offer interesting bits of trivia. You will also find TAKS practice and TAKS Skillbuilders throughout each chapter.

Other features of the textbook include:

- **The Story of Texas** — images from the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
- **Texas Literature** — excerpts from books about Texas, including vocabulary words and author information
- **Two Viewpoints** — differing opinions on topics
- **Economics and History pages** — usually part of your reading assignments
- **Only in Texas** — offers information on places that can only be found in the Lone Star State
- **People of Texas** — You will find these segments about the people who helped shape Texas within your assigned readings. Make sure you read them!

Each chapter is divided into sections. At the beginning of each of these sections, you will find a “Guide to Reading.” This gives you a preview of the section as well as helpful hints and strategies. At the end of each section is a Section Assessment which will help ensure that you understood the main concepts of what you read. At the end of each chapter, you will find an “Assessment and Activities” exercise.

Some of the above items will be showing up in your Lesson Assignments for completion; however, it is highly recommended that you use **all** of these special features for extra practice and study purposes as well as help in taking notes.

## Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://Adobe.com))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

## Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** on the course home page)

## Course Organization

This course consists of ten lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

The final examination will be composed of objective questions. The reading assignments, Review Exercises, and graded lessons you have completed should prepare you to take the final exam.

## Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Geography and You	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Texas: Land of Contrasts	One week
<b>Lesson 3</b>	A Clash of Cultures	One week
<b>Lesson 4</b>	Spanish Dominance in Texas	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 5</b>	The Colonization of Texas	One week
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Road to Independence	One week
<b>Lesson 7</b>	From Defeat to Victory	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 8</b>	The Republic of Texas	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 9</b>	The Lone Star State	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 10</b>	The Civil War Reconstruction	Two weeks
<b>Final Exam</b>		

## Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (\*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
<b>1</b>	1-2	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part I Lesson 1: Assignment – Part II (Essay) Lesson 1: Assignment – Part III (Line Graph) *Lesson 1: Summative Assignment: Critical Thinking Essay
<b>2</b>	3	Lesson 2: Assignment – Part I Lesson 2: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer) *Lesson 2: Summative Assignment: Essay
<b>3</b>	4	Lesson 3: Assignment – Part I Lesson 3: Assignment – Part II (Summary/Timeline) *Lesson 3: Summative Assignment: Essay Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
<b>4</b>	5-6	Lesson 4: Assignment – Part I Lesson 4: Assignment – Part II (Essay) Lesson 4: Assignment – Part III (Comparison) *Lesson 4: Summative Assignment: Essay
<b>5</b>	7	Lesson 5: Assignment – Part I Lesson 5: Assignment – Part II (Skills) *Lesson 5: Summative Assignment: You Are There
<b>6</b>	8	Lesson 6: Assignment – Part I Lesson 6: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer) *Lesson 6: Summative Assignment: Essay
<b>7</b>	9-10	Lesson 7: Assignment – Part I Lesson 7: Assignment – Part II (Essay) Lesson 7: Assignment – Part III (Short Answer) *Lesson 7: Summative Assignment: Short Answer
<b>8</b>	11-12	Lesson 8: Assignment – Part I Lesson 8: Assignment – Part II (Short Answer) Lesson 8: Assignment – Part III (Geography and History)
<b>9</b>	13-14	Lesson 9: Assignment – Part I Lesson 9: Assignment – Part II (Short Essay) *Lesson 9: Summative Assignment: Essay

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
10	15-16	Lesson 10: Assignment – Part I Lesson 10: Assignment – Part II (Short Essay) Lesson 10: Assignment – Part III (Short Essay) Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		<b>Final Exam</b>

## Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

## Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

## Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- **Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)**
  - Lesson One Summative Assignment: Critical Thinking Essay (20 points)
  - Lesson Two Summative Assignment: Essay (30 points)
  - Lesson Three Summative Assignment: Essay (30 points)
  - Lesson Four Summative Assignment: Essay (30 points)
  - Lesson Five Summative Assignment: You Are There (30 points)
  - Lesson Six Summative Assignment: Essay (30 points)

- Lesson Seven Summative Assignment: Short Answer (30 points)
- Lesson Nine Summative Assignment: Essay (30 points)
- Summative Final Exam **(30% of Course Grade)**

## Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date. Student may purchase a single three-month extension for a fee.
- Extensions are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

## Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

## Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

## Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

## Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by email. For assignments that require you to upload a PDF or other document, please title your assignment files “lastName\_firstName\_assignmentName.xxx (.pdf, .doc, .xl, .jpg, etc.)”.

## Technical Difficulties

### ***Getting Help***

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

### ***Computer Problems***

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

### ***Server Problems***

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

### ***Lost or Corrupted Files***

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.