



Academia Santa Rosa de Lima  
Bayamón, Puerto Rico  
[academiasantarosa@asrpr.org](mailto:academiasantarosa@asrpr.org)  
Syllabus for the 8th Grade Social Studies

## **Social Studies for the 8th Grade**

Milexa Rodriguez Rivera

[mrodriguez@asrpr.org](mailto:mrodriguez@asrpr.org)

Office Hours: Appointment required. Please contact the administration.

### I. Introduction and Course Description

- The Latin American History course presents the fundamental principles of eighth grade, with the objective of promoting and developing civic competences in students so that they feel committed to the ideas and values of our society and can function effectively as productive citizens in the world in which we live.

### II. Course Objectives

- Integrate knowledge of the various disciplines and the humanities to promote civic competence.
- Study the human being in society in the past and in the present to learn how to interact with the social and natural environment.
- Understand relevant information on the geography of planet Earth.
- Identify and locate the various territories that the Antillean archipelago possesses.
- Identify and locate the various territories that the archipelago of Puerto Rico possesses.
- Describe the characteristics of the physical environment of Puerto Rico.
- Understand and analyze the electoral process in Puerto Rico.
- Know the peoples of Puerto Rico and the history of its founding.
- Understand time and the tools of history
- Examine the events, people and countries involved in the historical process of Puerto Rico.
- Point out characteristics that distinguish different periods in the history of Puerto Rico and explain their political, economic, social, and cultural consequences.
- Identify indigenous groups established in the archipelago of Puerto Rico and their cultural contribution.
- Know and show respect for Puerto Rican culture.
- Analyze past problems and their repercussions in today's world.
- Analyze our current governance system, its components, and its functions.

### III. Standards and Strategies

- The 8th grade Social Studies course follows the Puerto Rican education standards for Social Studies and follows the humanistic, multiple intelligence, and critical thinking strategies.

### IV. Reasonable accommodations

- All reasonable accommodations made for the needs of a student will be made according to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

V. Cellphone and Smart Devices Policy

- Students are **not** allowed to use cellphones or other similar types of smart devices during class, unless it is previously agreed upon and approved by the school’s administration.
- At the start of each school day, once the students are settled inside their homeroom, all students must place their phones and smart devices inside the provided space for said devices. Once the devices are inside the designated space students are not allowed to retrieve them without the supervision of their teacher.
- At the end of the school day, students must retrieve their phones and smart devices before going home.

VI. Computer Policy

- Computers are considered a crucial part of the students’ day-to-day classroom environment. This is why students must always bring their computers to school and they must always have enough battery life to power through the school day.
- Please keep in mind that classrooms do not possess enough outlets to charge all the students’ computers and so it is imperative that students keep a close eye on their computers’ battery life. If a student misses the day’s work because of a lack of battery on their computer, it will be considered as a lack of management skills and therefore the responsibility of making up said missed work will fall on the student.

VII. Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is the act of presenting words or ideas that belong to another person as if they were your own. This act is a violation of the Honor Code.
- Things that constitute an act of plagiarism include but are not limited to: 1. Using words or ideas from an internet source without proper permission; 2. Using the work of another student (i.e. copying a student’s homework or project); 3. Allowing parents, teachers, other students, paid tutors and paid ghostwriters to excessively edit and write the student’s assignments; 4. The use of AI engines such as ChatGPT, Open AI, etc. to generate answers or entire blocks of text.
- The teacher will evaluate plagiarism acts and apply disciplinary actions according to the gravity of the fault. Disciplinary actions include points deduction, automatic failure of the assignment, and/or an official write up (aka deficiency warning).

VIII. Evaluation Methods

- The following are the methods to be used throughout the school year to evaluate student progress. Please keep in mind that these methods are subject to change due to time constraints and/or the students’ needs.
- The assessment with the biggest weight (75%) is Exams.

Assessment	
Summative	Formative
Exams	Q&As
Short Tests	Journal Entries
Quizzes	Draw and Reflect
Oral Reports	Letters

Written Reports	The Monthly Log
Worksheets	---
Projects	---

IX. Content Outline

- Please keep in mind that the content outline is subject to change due to time constraints and/or the students' needs.

Units	Skills	Dates
<b>Unit 1:</b> Latin American Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• critical thinking communication</li> <li>• study and research</li> </ul>	August-October
<b>Unit 2:</b> From Forest City Latin Americas Original People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time and chronology</li> <li>• cartographic references</li> <li>• management and application of</li> </ul>	October-December
<b>Unit 3:</b> The formation of Latin America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technology</li> <li>• decision making</li> </ul>	January-March
<b>Unit 4:</b> Revolution and separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal development</li> <li>• interaction in groups</li> </ul>	March-April
<b>Unit 5:</b> Searching for Stability		April-May
<b>Unit 6:</b> Through the New Ways of Latin America		May

X. Didactic Materials

- Module: Edusystem Digital Platform
- Educational links
- Technology equipment

XI. Course Requirements

- Know the criteria and the evaluation process on which your academic assignment will be graded.
- Bring the required materials for the course every day.
- Attend the Academy regularly and punctually.
- Attend the complete and clean school uniform according to the student handbook.
- Bring written excuses when absent.
- Perform your academic tasks responsibly.
- Make up assignments and assessments that are covered in class, when absent.
- Keep the classroom clean and your work area organized.
- Take care of classroom materials and equipment.
- Use appropriate and respectful vocabulary.
- Bring notices, permits or other material signed by your parent and / or guardian (forged signatures prohibited).
- Respect your classmates and your teacher to keep a calm and productive atmosphere in the classroom.

XII. Parental Proof of Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, father, mother, or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, 8th grade student certify that I have read the Academic Handbooks of the Santa Rosa de Lima Academy for the course of Social Studies, corresponding to the 2023-2024 school year and I agree to make sure that my child follows through with their responsibilities.

Signature of father, mother and / or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2023

Note: Please sign this agreement and return it to the Social Studies teacher during the first week of school.