



Academia Santa Rosa de Lima  
Bayamón, Puerto Rico  
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Syllabus for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

## **Social Studies for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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Office Hours: Appointment required. Please contact the administration.

### I. Introduction and Course Description

- The 4<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies course incorporates several essential elements for teaching an effective Social Studies class. The learner is the center of the learning process, and is considered as an entity that is active, participatory, and at the same time reflective. Several topics will be studied, such as: The geographic framework of the island of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rican society and Taino culture, the Puerto Rican colonial process among others; promoting through these the development of critical thinking and integrating the use of technology to help the student understand the basic concepts and principles studied in the course.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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	Objectives	Assessments	Dates
<b>Unit 0:</b> Course Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and review the planets of the Solar System.</li> <li>• Study the concepts of translation and rotation.</li> <li>• Observe the location of Puerto Rico as part of the world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam</li> <li>• Worksheets</li> </ul>	August
<b>Unit 1:</b> The geographical framework of our island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study geology and the origins of the Caribbean</li> <li>• Describe, identify and compare the geographical features of the island of Puerto Rico</li> <li>• Study the renewable resources of Puerto Rico</li> <li>• Distinguish between renewable and non-renewable resources</li> <li>• Understand the concepts of census, emigration, migration, and population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short test</li> <li>• Exam</li> <li>• Project</li> <li>• Worksheets</li> </ul>	September-October
<b>Unit 2:</b> Adventures in Boriquén	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study the origins of Taíno society</li> <li>• Distinguish between the different peoples that inhabited the archipelago</li> <li>• Understand Taíno government, economy, and culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam</li> <li>• Quizzes</li> <li>• Worksheets</li> </ul>	November
<b>Unit 3:</b> New Settlers: Changes on the Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study the state of the world before the Americas were colonized</li> <li>• Research the events that took place with the arrival of the Spaniards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short Test</li> <li>• Exam</li> <li>• Project</li> <li>• Worksheets</li> </ul>	December-January

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the consequences of the arrival of new inhabitants and their culture on the island</li> </ul>		
<b>Unit 4:</b> Puerto Rico: A Spanish Colony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare the political, economic, and social changes that occur in the Island during the first of the conquest and colonization years</li> <li>Identify in what consisted Puerto Rico's strategic value in the Caribbean</li> <li>Study what challenges the colony faced</li> <li>Analyze the context of the Bourbon Reforms</li> <li>Analyze the economic and social conditions of the Island</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exam</li> <li>Worksheets</li> <li>Project</li> </ul>	February
<b>Unit 5:</b> The Crisis of the Spanish Power in Puerto Rico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain in his or her own words the main economic, political and social events that happened in Puerto Rico in the 19th century.</li> <li>Identify some of the actions done by Puerto Ricans to achieve reforms and freedoms.</li> <li>Assess the reason behind the Puerto Rican's desire for greater freedom.</li> <li>Describe the island's social, cultural and scientific development during the 19th century.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written Report</li> <li>Worksheets</li> <li>Exam</li> </ul>	March
<b>Unit 6:</b> Puerto Rico Under a New Regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine the major political, economic and socio-cultural changes that took place in Puerto Rico since the change of sovereignty.</li> <li>Value the importance that the study of the past has in order to understand the present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exam</li> <li>Project</li> <li>Worksheets</li> </ul>	April
<b>Unit 7:</b> Puerto Rico Today: Towards a Better Tomorrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the main political, economic and sociocultural</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exam</li> <li>Project</li> </ul>	May

	<p>changes that happened in Puerto Rico during the first years of the 21st century.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value the work of cultural and scientific institutions</li> <li>• Recognize ethic and civic behavior as a necessary instance of living in society.</li> <li>• Recognize Puerto Ricans as part of a Caribbean, Latin American and World culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worksheets</li> </ul>	
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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 \_\_\_\_\_, 4th 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.