

8th Grade American History

2018-2019



Mr. Sietsema

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Overview of Course:

This course focuses on American History from the time period of the Constitution up to the era of Reconstruction, which is just after the Civil War. It is designed to help students achieve a better appreciation and understanding for the past which has brought us to the present. To learn about history is to learn about the great successes and failures which have occurred over the years to create the country we now have today. Below is an order of the topics we will be exploring.

Review of World Geography (6th grade) and Ancient History (7th Grade)

Review of Early American History (5th Grade)

ERA 3-Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1800s)

ERA 4-Expansion and Reform (1792-1861)

ERA 5-Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

Opportunities for Learning:

Students will enjoy a wide variety of experiences and activities throughout the year. These include readings from our in class/online textbook, articles, handouts and websites along with discussions, mapping assignments, cooperative learning strategies, hands-on activities, projects, and research.

Grading Components:

The grade book is split into two categories with 80% of the marking period grade coming from tests, quizzes, and projects while 20% of the final grade is coming from homework assignments. Unless otherwise specified, homework assignments are due the next day. Incomplete or missing assignments will be given an "M" until they are completed, at which time they will be given a score and marked "late" in the grade book. Unless otherwise stated, work will receive a 25% reduction if it is turned in a day late and 50% reduction if it is turned in late after two days or more. No extra credit will be offered as we feel that grades should reflect student learning.

Please inform me if there are any extenuating circumstances that would call for an extension of the homework deadline. If a student is absent, they will be given the amount of time that they were gone to make up the assignment that they missed. For example, if they were sick one day, they will have another day to turn in the assignment. If they were gone two days, I will give them two days to finish it.

Assignments

The assignment for the day will be on board in the classroom. Students are expected to take note of that assignment and will be told what is expected to be done by the next class period. The 8th grade team also has a website that lists students assignments and other grade level information at: <http://coop8th.weebly.com/> If a student is sick or absent

for a day, please just check this website for what was missed. Some assignments will be handed out and others will be online. As we go through the year we will use the technology available to us through the student laptops, moodle pages, etc.

Test Retakes

- Students **MUST** re-take any tests in which they score below 75%.
- Any other student that scored above a 75% the first time, **MAY** re-take the test but you must sign up with your teacher.
- Your final test grade will be an average of your original test and the retake (unless the re-take grade is lower than the original test score)
- Re-takes will only be available if all assignments have been completed pertaining to the unit the test is on.

Grading Scale:	A	96-100
	A-	90-95
	B+	87-89
	B	83-86
	B-	80-82
	C+	77-79
	C	73-76
	C-	70-72
	D+	67-69
	D	63-66
	D-	60-62
	F	59

Semester Grades:

Semester averages are calculated by taking 40% for each of the two marking period grades and 20% for the semester exam.

Classroom Expectations:

Students are expected to Be a Bronco: be respectful, be responsible, and to be positive. If they have a challenge doing that, I will help them remember by using the middle school's Positive Behavior Intervention System or PBIS. This involves three stages or levels of discipline. The first time a student causes a problem they will be reminded quickly in class to re-focus and hopefully that solves the problem. The second time they have to be reminded or if the problem becomes a common occurrence, they will be asked to work on a solution in the hallway and fill out a sheet to reflect on their behavior. The student receives a lunch detention from me if they make it to this stage. The third time they cause a problem the student will go to the office to work on improving their behavior. The principals will meet with the student then and quite often the result will be an after school detention or more depending on the problem. Students can also skip behavior stages depending on the severity of the offense.

Tardy Policy

- 1st Tardy = Warning
- 2nd Tardy = Warning
- 3rd Tardy & Beyond = Lunch Detention

Contact:

Please feel free to contact me through e-mail or voice mail listed at the top of this syllabus. I will do my best to get back to you as soon as I can.

I am looking forward to a great year.

Mr. Sietsema