

Class Syllabus for SMS 8th Grade U.S. History

Course Description (Per FCUSD)

This course is designed to cover the history of the United States from the founding of the 13 colonies through Reconstruction. Students will learn historical vocabulary, and will work to boost their writing, speaking, and literacy skills through the use of Common Core. In addition to learning about these events within United States history, students will also develop critical and historical thinking skills. These skills align with Common Core standards and will help students to apply their knowledge of history into their reading and writing. Students will learn how to properly analyze written primary and secondary sources and use evidence from these sources in written assignments. Students will be exposed to current events to compare and contrast events which occurred in the past to events occurring currently. Materials, lesson plans, formative and summative assessments used could change depending on the needs of current students. All materials used in the course will be grade level, age appropriate and relative to the State of CA HSS content standards as well as framework for grade 8 students.

Units in the Order in Which They are Taught

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Geography/Critical Thinking | 7. Westward Expansion/Manifest Destiny |
| 2. The Enlightenment | 8. Reform Movements |
| 3. English Colonies | 9. Sectionalism |
| 4. American Revolution | 10. Civil War |
| 5. Constitution and Bill of Rights | 11. Reconstruction |
| 6. Establishing a New Nation | |

Class Goal ALL STUDENTS SUCCEED BY LEARNING THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW IT AND HOW IT AFFECTS THEIR LIVES.

Classroom Values

Safety, Responsibility, and Respect.

Problems arise when people are unsafe, off-task or disrespectful. You show disrespect when your disruption prevents other students from learning and the teacher from teaching.

Classroom Norms, Procedures, & Standards:

Beginning Class

- Students MUST BE IN THEIR SEAT BEFORE THE BELL STARTS TO RING. Anyone not in their seat will be marked tardy.
- Review daily agenda on big screen, and get out needed materials.

Dismissal at Bell

- Students will remain in their seats and working until the teacher dismisses them.
Students may NOT stand at the door.

Norms and Procedures

- **Passes**-You are expected to use the restroom during passing period. If you have an emergency and need to leave class for the restroom or any other reason, you must get permission from the teacher, sign out using e-pass (and back in when you return) then get a physical pass stating your destination before you walk out the door.
- **Food and Drink** -Water ONLY in a sealed container. NO FOOD in class. Gum is NEVER allowed.
- **Electronics and Chromebooks**-According to school policy, all cell phones must be off and locked in Yondr bags from the time students step onto campus until the final bell at the end of the day. If you choose not to do so, you will be sent to the office with a citation. Chromebooks are only to be used for on-topic class assignments. GoGuardian is used to monitor student screen time. If a student is off the assigned task without permission, they will have to close their Chromebook.
- **Absences** -For tests, it is your responsibility to get caught up on material/notes if absent prior to a test. If absent for a test, you have the number of days missed to make-up the test. Check Google Classroom or teacher webpage to see what you missed during your absence.
- **Late Work and Retake Policy** – There will be homework assigned regularly, but not assigned daily. To receive maximum credit for any assignment, students need to complete and turn in each assignment by its due date, *unless the student has an excused absence*. Routine reading assignments, such as Book Notes and SmartBook assignments, will not receive credit if late. All other work turned in one day late will only receive half of earned credit and late work will not be accepted two or more days beyond the due date.
- Students can retake chapter tests and earn up to 100 percent. You only retake the questions that you missed (did not master) the first time. However, the retake is a short answer test, not multiple choice. Schedule the retake with your teacher. Midterm and Final tests may also be retaken, but they are always administered (original tests and retakes) without the use of notes.

Grading Categories

50% Assessments

40% In-Class Assignments

10% Homework

Grading Scale

A+ = 100-98%	A = 93-97%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-88%	B = 87-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-78%	C = 77-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-68%	D = 67-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59% or below		

Tardy Policy

If you are tardy, come into the classroom and take your seat as quickly and quietly as possible in order to reduce the amount of disruption to the class. Excessive tardies will result in lower citizenship marks.

Citizenship Grades

Citizenship grades are determined by the following rubric. **(If your goal is to get an outstanding citizenship grade. Please let your teacher know so we can support you in reaching that goal.)**

Outstanding (O)- You always take accountability and responsibility seriously by being on time, on task, and prepared. You consistently take an active role in group work and class discussion and activities. You complete your homework on time and are always respectful to the teacher and other students. You have no discipline steps or Office referrals.

Satisfactory (S) – You generally take accountability and responsibility seriously by being on time, on task, and prepared. You often take an active role in group work and class discussion and activities. You typically complete your homework on time and are always respectful to the teacher and other students. You have no discipline steps or Office referrals.

Needs Improvement (N) – You sometimes take accountability and responsibility seriously, but are often late, off-task or unprepared. You rarely take an active role in group work and class discussion and activities and choose instead to distract the group or let others do most of the work. Your homework is frequently incomplete or not done on time and you may have shown disrespect to teachers and/or other students. You may have been given a discipline step or Office referral.

Unsatisfactory (U) – You rarely take accountability and responsibility seriously and are often late, off-task or unprepared. You rarely take an active role in group work and class discussion/activities and choose instead to distract the group or let others do most of the work. Your homework is rarely done on time. You have shown disrespect to teachers and/or other students and/or have been placed on discipline steps and/or given an Office referral..

Materials/Supplies

You must come to class each day prepared to work. Your success depends on it. If you or your family are unable to obtain the necessary school supplies, please notify your teacher or your counselor and arrangements will gladly be made to obtain the needed supplies for you.

You MUST have the following with you in class each day:

1. A charged Chromebook **(It is students' responsibility to charge Chromebooks nightly.)**
2. At least **two** sharp pencils with erasers. We recommend mechanical pencils or a manual pencil sharpener to avoid having to get up to sharpen a pencil during class.
3. Loose leaf binder paper
4. One section of a binder or a separate folder reserved for Social Science assignments.

Classroom Donations

If you would like to donate, we are always in need of the following items:

Tissue
Hand Sanitizer
Anti-Bacterial Wipes

Google Classrooms and Teacher Webpages

The schedule for the week must be copied by students into their planner at the beginning of every week. If I make changes to the schedule, it is the student's responsibility to record those changes in their agenda.

- **Monitoring grades/assignments through Power School will only show work completed or missing AFTER it's due date.**
- **Use the teacher website to know what is due BEFORE it is due in order to avoid missing deadlines and due dates.**

NOTE: Not all assignments can or will be assigned through Google Classroom and therefore won't show up in the "To Do" window.

Contact Information

Please email me with any questions or to make an appointment to meet with me outside of class.

Mr. Green: jgreen@fcusd.org