

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

Course Description (cut and pasted from district.)

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 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 you disrupt other students from learning and the teacher from teaching.

Classroom Norms, Procedures, & Standards:

Beginning Class

- ***Power off your phone*** and put it in the pocket chart with your seat number (or if your classroom doesn't have this available, then put them completely away and out of sight in your pocket, backpack, etc.). In order to safeguard phones, the pocket chart will be hang in a cabinet/closet that will remain closed throughout 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, and get out needed materials.

Dismissal at Bell

- Students will remain in their seats and working until the teacher dismisses them.
- If there is a pocket chart: Prior to the bell, teacher will stand by the pocket chart as students collect their phones and go back to their seats. (Phones must remain turned off and returned to backpacks.) Using this procedure, your teacher will be able to safeguard phones and confirm that all students have their cell phones prior to the bell. If there is not a pocket chart, all phones remain off and out of sight. **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 and get a 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 and other electronics must be out of sight and OFF at all times (except before and after school and during lunch). 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 white board to see what you missed when gone.
- **Late Work and Retake Policy** - All late work is due before the chapter test. Students who did not get an A on the test and have completed all chapter assignments can retake chapter tests for a high score of 90%. 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 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, so as 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 (you may not use a pen in class). 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.

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

Most homework/classwork assignments are posted in Google Classroom and/or on the SMS teacher website.

If your teacher uses Google Classroom it is recommended that parents request to be added as guardians in Google Classroom in order to support students and ensure their success in school by staying informed regarding assignments, due dates, and expectations. **Monitoring grades/assignments through Power School will only show work completed or missing AFTER it's due date. Use Google Classroom or 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 your teacher with any questions or to make an appointment to meet with them outside of class.

Ms. Aquila laquila@fcusd.org

Mr. Green: jgreen@fcusd.org

Ms. Williams: dwilliam@fcusd.org