

**United States History 8
Course Requirements and Grading**

Mr. Topping

Overview

As we embark on a new school year, it is important to set guidelines and clear expectations. This year, we will be studying the history of the United States from the Civil War to the modern era. If we all do our part, we can look forward to a successful and enjoyable year.

Methods

Discussions, simulations, readings, audio-visual materials, plays and projects.

Required Materials

1. One (1) 3-ring loose leaf binder (2-inch hard cover)
2. Loose leaf paper for binder
3. One (1) 3-ring folder (to be placed inside binder)
4. Two (2) pens/ Two (2) pencils
5. Covered Textbook (which may be left at home unless specifically required in class)
*****You are expected to be prepared for class everyday with these materials and any other relevant materials.

Homework

You will be assigned pages to read in your textbook or other articles every night. Every reading will be accompanied with questions for you to complete.

***All assignments should have the following heading written in the upper right-hand corner:

Name
United States History 8 Period
Date
Assignment (page and question numbers)

There will be penalties for late assignments. **If you are in school, but must miss this class (field trips, lessons, etc.), your homework assignment must be handed in before your class period in order to receive full credit. DO NOT PLACE ASSIGNMENTS IN MY MAILBOX!!!**

Tests & Quizzes

There will be two or three unit tests a quarter. **Test Day is on “Social Studies” Days.** Quizzes may be given on any day of the week, and will be announced in advance. All tests and quizzes must be made up on the day of your return (allowances will be made for emergency circumstances).

Projects & Essays

The only way to genuinely enjoy U.S. History is by doing. Therefore, you will be assigned several small projects each quarter. Essays will be assigned as well. Points will be deducted for anything handed in late.

Grading

Each quiz, assignment, test, and project is given a point value. At the end of each quarter, your grade will be **YOUR TOTAL POINTS EARNED DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL POINTS GIVEN FOR THE QUARTER.**

***You will keep a record of your grades for every quarter.

Extra –Help

I will be available to any student before, during, and after school hours. Students who need assistance will simply schedule an appointment, and I will be happy to accommodate those needs.

Classroom Conduct

The following guidelines are meant to help the group develop a proper environment for the discussion of values and decision-making. A “climate” of trust and acceptance increase the chances of sharing those special things which each individual sees as important and valuable. These rules are the property of the group, not the leader. It is up to the group to use them for the best possible group experience.

1. **Accept Others:** Each person has the right to say what he/she thinks. Listen to one another. Do not interrupt or call out. You do not have to agree to show respect to a classmate.
“I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.” (Voltaire)
2. **Speak For Yourself:** Say what you think or feel; do not speak for others.
3. **Avoid Put-Downs:** Verbal put-downs hurt people, even when they appear not to be bothered. Non-verbal put-downs also hurt; these include facial expressions, gestures, side conversations, etc.
4. **Responsibility For Your Own Learning:** Each person will learn as much or as little as he/she chooses to learn. Be responsible and work hard.
5. **Be On Time:** Students are expected to be **in their seats with their homework in the “in – box”** when the second bell rings. **IF YOU ARE NOT IN YOUR SEAT WHEN THE BELL RINGS, YOU ARE LATE!!!**
6. **Use Of Facilities:** Students may use the facilities at the **beginning** of the period only if it is an emergency and only after the homework has been submitted. In addition, MP3, cell phones, and food are prohibited in the classroom.

***Do not pack up before the bell rings!!! Please wait until I dismiss you.

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____