

Social Studies - American History (7th and 8th Grades)

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Course Description

In this class, you will engage with classmates in some deep thinking about issues from American history that impact us today. A central objective is to develop intellectual skills, ones that are critical if you are to prosper in your remaining school years and beyond. Intellectual skills are like athletic or musical skills in that they are developed by consistent practice. It's hard work, just like developing an athletic skill, but it is the only way. Your job is to keep up the hard work and realize you are learning something important even if you can't explain it as easily as you can in other classes.

Course Goals

You will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate your understanding of

- major ideas and times in the history of the United States and New York,
- the geography of the world in which we live—local, national, and global—including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth's surface,
- how the United States and other societies develop economic systems to assign limited resources,
- the need for establishing governments; the governmental systems of the United States and other nations; the United States Constitution; the basic civic values of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including ways to participate.

Course Expectations

This class is designed so that each student may contribute through collaboration since everyone's contribution is equally valuable. You must feel free to explore and take risks and know that making mistakes is part of the learning process. We will learn about important historical events and reflect on real-world questions through group work, class discussions, reading activities, and writing activities. *It is expected all students should come to all classes and complete all assignments in school and at home in a timely manner.*

Course Grading Policies

Your grade will be based on your work assigned in the classroom. Here is the percentage breakdown of the overall grade:

Classwork (50%):

Classwork includes project preparation, projects, lesson assessments, class surveys

- Classwork is graded with the following in mind: mastery of assignment goal and content; quality of work and writing; demonstration of critical thinking; and completion of task as outlined in project descriptions, expectations, and rubrics.

Assessments (40%):

Assessments include exams, performance tasks, presentations

- Assessments are graded with the following in mind: mastery of assignment content and skills; level of completion; demonstration of critical thinking.

REACH (10%):

REACH includes homeworks and class participation

- REACH is graded with the following in mind: understanding of assignment content; demonstration of effort and critical thinking; level of completion; proper use of language to communicate; participation in dialogues and class conversations; appropriate ways of contribution.

Redoing Work

Students may redo homeworks and class surveys that they have earned below a 75 / 2 in order to improve their grade. They must communicate with their teachers if they intend to redo an assignment. Redos must occur within two weeks of a grade being posted in GAMS *except in the two weeks before the end of the trimester*. After the two-week window, the original grade stands.

Absences/Late/Missing Work

It is the student's responsibility to obtain the assignments, notes and any other pertinent information that is missed during an absence. In most cases, missing work may be turned in for up to two weeks following the original due date *except in the two weeks before the end of the trimester*. If a student has a pattern of late/missing work and there are no extenuating circumstances, a conference may be held with the family, advisor and school leadership. If a student does not hand in an assignment, it will be recorded as an M (missing) until it is turned in. Work that is not turned in during the two week make-up period will impact the student's overall grade.

Technology

Students are expected to use school technology responsibly and follow rules included in the DLMS student handbook. Students should not use devices assigned to other students. Misuse of technology may result in disciplinary action and loss of technology privileges.

Communication

All students should use DLMS email accounts for communicating with teachers. Students should regularly check Google Classroom when indicated.