

Course Syllabus 8th Grade History - Early

American History Ms. Thomas Room 19 ariel.thomas@ousd.org **Course**

Overview: Welcome! The goal of this class is to enable students to understand the development of the United States by examining connections to the past in order to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students will examine political, economic, technological, and social developments of the United States from the exploration period through Reconstruction. This includes the impact of expansion on the country's development; political, social, and economics conflicts; influence of diverse groups on cultural development of the U.S.; and key concepts of the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents.

Course Objectives:

1. Compare and contrast selected events throughout US history, and describe and analyze patterns of social, economic, and political changes throughout the history of the US.
2. Develop the skills to comprehend and use terms needed to better understand the content.
3. Historical Sources: Differentiate between primary and secondary sources, and understand the potential and limitations of each.
4. Historical Perspectives and Interpretations: Describe why different people may have different perspectives of the same historical event and why multiple interpretations should be considered.
5. Global Cooperation, Conflict, and Interdependence: Describe the influences of America on other nations and/or organizations and vice versa.

Room 19 Class Objectives:

- All students will feel recognized, valued, and safe.
- All students will work hard, every day.
- All students will cultivate a growth mindset.
- All students will accomplish things they never knew they could.
- All students will become more confident critical thinkers, ready to question and connect to the world around them.

Materials: Students must bring the following materials to class everyday:

- 3 ring - 1 inch binder with binder paper inside
- 5 tab binder dividers

• At least 3 pencils or pens **“The Daily 4”**: Each day students will earn 4 points for their participation and preparedness in class. This is designed to reward students for the work completed in class and for being self-sufficient, positive players in class.

- 1 point for being on time to class (this means working silently on your do now by the time the bell rings)
- 1 point for completing half of your classwork
- 1 point for finishing your classwork entirely
- 1 point for behaving respectfully (this will be subtracted if a student continues to make poor choices after being given a warning) **Grading Policy:**

Letter Grade Percentage

A+ 100+% - 98%

A 94%-98%

A- 90%-93%

B+ 98%-89%

B 84%-88%

B- 80%-83%

C+ 78%-79%

C 74%-78%

C- 70%-73%

D+ and below 69% >

Category % of Grade

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Classwork (including “daily 4”) | 60% |
|---------------------------------|-----|

Homework 10%

Assessments
(quizzes, tests,
essays, projects)

30
%

Test Corrections: For quizzes and tests students will be able to correct their responses for up to half of their points back. **Behavior:** In order to create and maintain a safe and productive learning environment, students are expected to abide by our agreements we have laid out in our class contract and to follow all of the classroom procedures we learn. Additionally, students are required to follow the 8th grade History “non-negotiable” classroom rules, which are as follows:

1. Follow instructions the first time given.
2. Listen attentively to the speaker.
3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
4. Use positive and constructive language.
5. Follow all CMS rules (this includes: no eating, drinks or gum chewing in class except water bottles, no hats or hoods on in class, etc.)

If students choose to break the rules, the following consequences will apply

1. Warning
2. Loss of “Behavior” point
3. 1-1 teacher check in
4. Phone call home
5. Office Referral **Please note: Fighting, defiance or vandalism will lead directly to an office referral.

Late Work: Late work is accepted for a one point deduction within one week of the original due date. **Absence Policy:** When the student returns to school they should check the absent folders hanging on the wall. If there are any questions on an assignment check in with Ms. Thomas. The student has the number of days they were absent to make up the work. **Academic Integrity:** Any work turned in should be your own. If any sort of academic dishonesty is found, cheating, plagiarism, etc. the assignment will be taken, a zero will be given, and parents/guardians will be notified. If you are caught letting someone copy your work, the same consequences will apply. Please remove and sign this page to indicate that you have reviewed it. If there is anything you would like me to know about your student to help them succeed please let me know on this page or send me an email at ariel.thomas@ousd.org. Thank you so much and I look forward to a great year!

Student name (printed):

Student signature: _____ Date:

Guardian signature: _____ Date:

Best way to reach you (circle one): text call email

Please provide the best number or email address for your preferred communication method:
