

Syllabus - Mr. Petersen - 8th Grade Social Studies - 2025-2026

Welcome to 8th grade Early U.S. History! My name is Jared Petersen, your 8th grade Social Studies guide at Creighton Middle School. This year we will discover America from European settlement through Civil War Reconstruction. We will evaluate primary and secondary sources and discover the validity of sources online. We will determine the purpose of government and participate as active citizens of our community by creating public policy. We will discuss, debate and get creative with projects. We will explore business and finances as they apply to our country and our own personal lives. Lastly we will explore continuity and change in American history through the eyes of historians.

What you need to know for class

- **Materials for class each day:**
 - Computer & charger
 - Social Studies binder - with extra paper
 - Pencil bag with:
 - Writing utensil - preferably a pencil, colored pencils, highlighter & wire earbuds for Chromebooks
- **Homework:** I do NOT assign homework outside of work assigned to be completed during class time. However, there are times when some students need extra time to complete classwork. I am available for extra time and help after school by appointment, during enrichment, and lunch.
- **What if you are absent or missing work:** Because all our classwork is essential learning, **students are responsible for completing ALL CLASSWORK even when absent!** It is your responsibility to make up all work you miss if you are absent from school or class, or did not finish during class time. Check *Google Classroom* for the day's assignments. I do accept late work, and if you need an extension on an assignment please *ask*; advocate for yourself!
- **Communication with me:** It is up to you, the student, to email me or leave a voicemail if you need to contact me. School is *your* job, so own it! Your parents and guardians are here to help and support you and therefore should contact me if needed at any time as well. They can check *Google Classroom* for due dates and assignments, or *Infinite Campus* for grades..
Email: jared.petersen@jeffco.k12.co.us
Phone: 720-722-0595 or 303-982-6279
- **Preparedness:** You are getting ready for high school! This year you will be expected to be on time, prepared for class with your materials, and ready to work and participate. We will follow the school policy of **no cellphones**. Earbuds are allowed with Chromebooks on independent work days, or as approved by me.

Grades:

Grades are available anytime through the Campus portal. All legal guardians and students have access to student grades. **I strongly encourage students and parents to check grades weekly.**

Gradebook Breakdown	Percentage of Grade
● Practice and Prep ● Preparedness, overall work habits, class warm ups, exit tickets, and everyday practice work...	25%
● Formative Assessments ● Small projects, research, short writing assignments, and short quizzes that are checks for understanding. ● Work in this category proves what you know relating to the standards and lesson/unit objectives.	45%

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Summative Assessments

Larger projects, tests and larger writing assignments that show mastery of knowledge. Work in this section asks you to *apply* what you know.

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30%

Documentaries & Movies in Social Studies

Throughout the year we will watch several documentaries and movies in Social Studies. When studying history I feel it is important for students to try to put themselves in the place of the people who lived it. Documentaries and movies are a great way to allow students the opportunity to see the relevance of historical events as well as increase their understanding of historical topics. These videos which we will watch in class have been carefully chosen and approved because of their attempt to accurately portray history, and they're interesting to watch!

- Harriet - Rated PG-13 for racial epithets/language and violence
- Amend: The Fight for America - Rated TV-MA for racial epithets/language and violence
- 13th - Rated TV-MA for racial epithets/language and violence
- America: The Story of Us - Rated TV-PG for violence

If you have any questions about why these movies are rated the way they are please see their IMDB webpage and don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Please return this letter read and signed.

Sincerely,

Jared Petersen

jared.petersen@jeffco.k12.co.us

STUDENT

I have read and understand the above letter and am aware of Mr. Petersen's classroom policies for the year.

Printed Name: _____
(Student printed name)

Signature: _____
(Student Signature)

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I have read the above letter, understand Mr. Petersen's policies for the year, and give my student permission to watch the above four approved movies/documentaries.

Printed Name: _____
(Parent/Guardian printed name)

Signature: _____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)