

# 8th Grade United States History

Mr. Law

Room 104

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## **Course Outline**

This course follows the history of the United States from its origins through Reconstruction. The primary purpose of this course is to give students an opportunity to learn and gain knowledge about the history of America from colonial exploration through Reconstruction. This will be accomplished through the geographic, economic, political, and social developments that shaped our nation. Attaining knowledge of major concepts, their sequence in history, and analyzing decisions made using a historical perspective, are some of the key skills we will be working on in this class.

## **Materials**

The students will use their iPads almost daily so they will need to be in class and charged. Most notes and assignments will be posted in Google Classroom. Students will be using Google Classroom in place of a three ring binder. Students will need a folder for class if we use paper assignments or notes. Classroom assignments will be checked typically for a quiz grade and are an excellent study resource throughout the year. Other daily supplies include pen/pencil/ colored Pencils and agenda of choice (assignment notebook, daily planner, email to self or parent, apps) to record homework and due dates.

**Textbook:** *United States History To 1877* **Techbook:** *United States History (prehistory-1877)* (Directions to access it are available on my website and students are shown in class how to access it)

## **Grading**

Major assessments – 60% (tests, projects, notebook checks, quizzes) Skills Development – 40% (Reading Guides, learning checks, homework) Practice- 0% (class activities, class discussions). Late work will have a score of 1% in Skyward until completed.

## **Homework Policy**

All work assigned in class will be completed and returned in a timely manner. Assignments will lose 10% of their value for every day late. Late work policy may vary depending on the assignment. Students who do not turn in assignments will receive a 1% in Skyward for missing work, however the work can still be turned in up until the unit of study is tested on for credit per homework or absence policy. Daily assignments are not eligible for redo.

## **Make-Up Work Policy (for absences)**

Make-up work will follow the district's policy of one day per excused absence. When absent from class, it is the student's job to check the class agenda (in the classroom or on my website calendar), Google classroom, or check with the teacher. All paper copies are in the back of the room in the day of the week tray and provided digitally in Google Classroom. If a test is missed it will be in the testing center for the student to take upon the required timeline.

## **Retesting Policy**

If a student scores below 70% on a test, they will have a second opportunity to show mastery earning a grade up to a 70%. The mastery learning process is determined by the teacher and may be different for each test. Students wishing to retest must communicate with their teacher via email within 5 days of receiving the test score.

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Students will be required to complete a retest reflection form. Retesting is intended for the occasional difficulty with content mastery. When students retest on a regular basis, parents will be notified to help support the student.

## **Classroom Policies and Rules**

My classroom management policy will follow the student code of conduct handbook and all WRMS school rules and policies. Students are expected to come to class prepared, to be productive, polite, and prompt.

Cheating or plagiarism on any test, quiz, or major grade will result in an automatic zero on that assignment. Cell phones are to remain out of sight during class per school policy. Earbuds are only to be used for academic purposes. Students are required to keep their iPad on Apple Teacher during class and to use the iPad as a tool for class.

## **Cell Phone**

Due to Texas State Legislature HB 1481 students are prohibited from using a personal communication device while on school property and during the school day. Students are required to keep their iPad on Apple Teacher during class and to use the iPad as a tool for class purposes only.

## **AI Expectations and Accessible Use**

Eanes ISD supports the thoughtful and responsible use of AI tools to enhance teaching and learning. In this class, approved AI tools may be used to support instruction, provide practice opportunities, and offer feedback. Students will be clearly informed when AI use is allowed on an assignment. All AI use must follow district policies, including protecting personal information and using only district-approved tools.

## **Academic Integrity:**

Academic dishonesty, including cheating, copying the work of another, allowing another student to copy work, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing an assignment, unauthorized communication with another person during an examination, or any use of artificial intelligence or computer-generated work in violation of District or campus rules.

## **My Tutorial Times**

By **confirmed appointment** before school. Tutoring will be available weekly **Friday mornings at 8 AM** and most days during WCT, also by confirmed appointment.

**Conference Times:** By confirmed appointment before school at 8 AM. Some after school appointments can be made with advanced notice.

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## *Tentative Sequence of Learning:*

### Fall Semester

Geography & Exploration

Colonial America

Road to Revolution

American Revolution

Creating a Nation & Constitution

Early Republic

### Spring Semester

Early Republic

Age of Jackson & Westward Expansion

Industrialization & Reform

Civil War

Reconstruction

STAAR Review

**I have read the syllabus and asked Mr. Law to clarify anything I did not understand:**

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_