



8TH GRADE US HISTORY SYLLABUS

YOUR TEACHER:

Edward Harris Jr. Middle School
U.S. History
(916) 688-0080

EMAIL AND WEBSITE:

www.egusd.net/mteh

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will study United States History focusing on the Great Awakening to westward expansion. Students will use critical thinking and analysis skills to examine the social, cultural, political, and technological changes in this era in American history.

(This course is designed around the California State Social Science Standards. To see a copy of these standards, please visit www.cde.ca.gov/standards/histotry/grades8.html.)

CLASS RULES, PROCEDURES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Course Outline:

Terms 1 & 2

- Standard 8.1: Great Awakening, Revolution, and Independence
- Standard 8.2: Early American Government
- Standard 8.3: American Political System
- Standard 8.4: Ideals of a New Nation
- Standard 8.5: Foreign Policy in the Early Republic
- Standard 8.8: West and Manifest Destiny



General Expectations

1. **Class Materials:** Students are expected to have the following materials in class every day:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 8 ½ x 11 single subject spiral notebook | 4. Highlighter |
| 2. Blue or black pen | 5. Glue stick |
| 3. Pencils (at least 2) | 6. Colored Pencils and Ruler (optional but helpful) |



2. **Assignments:** Most class assignments will be kept in the student's History Notebook. This is the 8 ½ x 11 inch notebook that students should bring to class EVERY DAY. Parents are encouraged to look through this notebook in order to remain aware of their student's work in class. In addition to class work, homework will be assigned when necessary, and there will be weekly quizzes every Friday and a test, essay, or project at the end of each unit/standard.
3. **Absences & Make Up Work:** As per school policy, late work for full credit will only be accepted to make up for excused absences. Students with an excused absence have the number of days they were absent to make up any missed work. It is the students' responsibility to gather handouts for missing assignments.
4. **Missed Tests/ Quizzes:** Weekly quizzes will be given every Friday. Tests will be given at the end of each unit and students will be advised of Unit Test dates well in advance. Students must make up any missed tests or quizzes within **two days** of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to come in for make-up tests; he/she **will not** be reminded to do so.
5. **Homework:** The purpose of homework is to complement and enhance the learning a student does in class. Homework will be given when necessary and students will be expected to have it completed on the due date. There will be a penalty for work that is turned in late. The most common form of homework will be SQ5R and Vocabulary assignments. A copy of the directions for those assignments is attached to this syllabus. Also, ISN work that is not completed in class will be assigned as homework.
6. **Communication:** It is the students' responsibility to keep parents informed of their grade by bringing home their weekly progress report. **Parents are strongly encouraged to ask for these progress reports every Thursday** night and utilize School Loop on a consistent basis to stay informed of class grades. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher immediately if they have a concern about their student's grade.

7. **Plagiarism:** Also known as copying, plagiarism is a serious issue for students, teachers, and schools throughout the country. It is most commonly seen in the middle school classroom in the form of students copying another student's ISN work or homework. Zero credit will be given for copied work. It is important to remember that both parties will receive a zero- the copier and the person who allowed their paper to be copied.
8. **Behavior:** Students are expected to follow the school-wide "COLT" classroom rules. Consequences for not following these rules will be given out on a predictable and consistent basis. Any misbehavior with a guest teacher will result in consequences the day I return to class. Consequences include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| a. warning | d. lunch detention |
| b. phone call / letter home | e. on campus suspension for the period |
| c. completing work in another room | f. office referral |

GRADING

Assignments will be given a point value based on the following scale:

Grading Scale	
100-90%	=A
89-80%	= B
79-70%	= C
69-60%	= D
59-0%	= F

How do students improve their grade?

Students may retake any quiz to improve their score. This must be done at lunch or before/after school. Retakes must take place before the next Friday quiz. Also, late work will be accepted, but there will be a penalty in the number of points earned.

FILMS

Films will be used as supplements to enhance the students' learning. All supplemental films used are in accordance with the EGUSD's media policy. If new videos become available to view, I will send a note home prior to viewing. If you do not wish your child to see the videos, please send him/her with a note, and I will give him/her a separate assignment to complete. Some of the films may include:

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
1776
12 Angry Men
National Treasure

Ruby Bridges
One More Mountain
A Race to Freedom
American Tale

Amazing Grace
Glory
The Civil War
Johnny Tremain



To view the EGUSD video policy see page 10 in the parent / student handbook, or visit:
www.egusd.k12.ca.us/parents/hand0304_10.htm

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

It is a gift to have parents participate in their child's education. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come and observe or help in the classroom. Parents can also stay involved by checking School Loop, their student's ISN, and helping their student study for tests and quizzes.



PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

After reading the syllabus, please take a few minutes to fill out the following information:

If there are two Parents/Guardians supporting your student please fill out one set of information for each individual person:

Parent/Guardian (Full Name): _____

Parent/Guardian **Home Phone** Number: _____

Best time to reach you at this number: _____

Parent/Guardian **Cell Phone** Number: _____

Best time to reach you at this number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Parent/Guardian (Full Name): _____

Parent/Guardian **Home Phone** Number: _____

Best time to reach you at this number: _____

Parent/Guardian **Cell Phone** Number: _____

Best time to reach you at this number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

PLEASE SIGN BELOW

I have read the syllabus for 8th grade U.S. History, and I agree to participate fully and be an active learner in class. I understand that the teacher will treat me with respect, and I in turn will respect the right of the teacher to teach.

Student Signature

I have read the syllabus for 8th grade U.S. History. I will keep a copy of the syllabus for my records and allow my student to turn this parent information sheet back to the teacher.

Parent Signature

Students Name (PLEASE PRINT)