

Bracken County Middle School
8th Grade Social Studies
2008-09 Course Syllabus

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Course Description

8th grade Social Studies is an overview of early United States history from Ancient times up to the Civil War and through Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed on the development of early American colonization, American democracy, and conflict that arose as the United States grew and expanded. Students will gain an understanding of American government and how they can participate in a “government of the people” in today’s world.

Comments

The main goal of the class is to learn about American history and apply those principles that our country was built upon in their own lives. Students will be expected to arrive to class prepared, have assignments completed and ready to turn in, and respect others. Students will participate in several simulations throughout the year, where they will be asked to become critical-thinkers and problem-solvers in role-playing situations. This class will also help prepare students to be successful on the Social Studies section of the state assessment.

Course Standards

- Democratic governments function to preserve and protect the rights, liberty, and property of their citizens by making, enacting, and enforcing appropriate rules and laws.
- In order for the US government to function as a democracy, citizens must assume responsibility for its function.
- America’s diverse society began with the “great convergence” of European, African, and Native American people beginning in the late 15th century.
- The ideals of equality and personal liberty, as developed during the colonial period, were motivations for the American Revolution and proved instrumental in forging a new nation.
- The growth of democracy and geographic expansion were significant in American history.
- Political, social, economic, and cultural differences among sections of the US resulted in the American Civil War.

Method of Grade Calculation

Students will be evaluated on class assignments and activities including, but not limited to, the following: class work, homework, journal entries, tests, and folder

Textbook

Appleby, Joyce; Brinkley, Alan; Broussard, Albert; McPherson, James; Ritchie, Donald, The American Republic To 1877, McGraw Hill Glencoe, New York, 2007.

Required Materials

- Paper
- Writing Utensil
- Folder
- Journal

Classroom Rules & Procedures

- Arrive prepared for class (paper, pencil, book)
- Have assignments completed and ready to turn in
- Stay in your seat
- Respect others
- Be recognized before you speak
- Sharpen pencils or get Kleenex as needed, without disruption
- Put your name on all assignments
- Put returned papers in your folder immediately

Classroom Participation /Attendance Policy

Students will be expected to be on time and prepared for class with all necessary materials. Attendance is of vital importance, as much of the work is done in class. Only students with excused absences will be given grades on make-up work.

Calendar of Course Content

First Semester

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| Organizing Spaces (a review of geography) | 1 week |
| 10 Little Indians (ancient and Native Americans) | 3 weeks |
| New Land Ho! (European exploration) | 3 weeks |
| Living In America (colonial simulation) | 5 weeks |
| The Patriot Cause (American Revolution) | 4 weeks |
| We The People (development of the Constitution) | 2 weeks |

Second Semester

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| We The People continued (Constitution simulation) | 5 weeks |
| Growing Pains (early government under the Constitution) | 2 weeks |
| Money, Money (economics) | 2 weeks |
| It's Time For A Change (early American growth) | 3 weeks |
| United We Stand, Divided We Fall (Civil War simulation) | 6 weeks |