

North Monterey County Middle School

United States History Syllabus *2023/2024 School Year*

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Please note that I reserve the right to make additions or subtractions to the syllabus as required. This syllabus covers both in person and distance learning rules and expectations.

Course Description

The eighth grade course of study for history/social science focuses on ideas, issues, and events in United States history from the framing of the Constitution to the beginning of the 20th Century. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions, particularly the shaping of the United States Constitution, the course traces the development of American politics, society, culture, and economic growth, relating these topics to the emergence of regional differences.

Our textbook is: **United States History & Geography: Growth & Conflict** (McGraw Hill, 2019)

We also use supplemental materials provided to each student in class:

- **Mini-Os in American History** (The DBQ Project, Volume , 2013)
- **Mini-Os in Civics** (The DBQ Project, 2016)

Grading Policy

Reports of student progress will be provided every academic quarter, with final grades provided at the end of each of two semesters. Final grades will be determined by classroom assessments of student proficiency levels based upon individual student achievement of the course content and literacy standards. Non-academic factors are reported through the individual citizenship marks.

The following percentage scale applies:

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

- **Assignments** – (Practice and Projects, 30% of grade) Includes class work, notes, projects, and homework assignments. It is the student's responsibility to archive papers or electronic documents for each unit. Late work will not be accepted unless the absence is excused. In the case of an absence the student will have the same amount of time that he/she was absent to make up the missing work.
- **Assessments** – (70% of grade) Standards based assessments will be given to evaluate student mastery of the covered material (Based on HSS & Common Core State Standards). Assessments may be given in a variety of formats that take into consideration the varied learning styles of students. A common summative assessment (Benchmark Assessment) will be given to all students at least once each quarter (essay format).
- **Participation** – Class discussions, reading aloud, class projects, etc... further enhance the learning experience, and assist in ensuring that students learn the required material and will enhance overall student performance on assessments.
- **Cheating in ANY form will not be tolerated and will result in a direct disciplinary referral.**

Absences

- Many assignments are completed in class, so consider that excessive absences will affect your assessment performance.
- If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed in class and Google Classroom to determine what assignments need to be completed during the period of absence. If an extension of time is needed due to an excused absence, **it is the responsibility of the student to contact me** to negotiate an appropriate alternative due-date. Coming to an in-person or digital classroom unprepared because you were absent is not always excusable.

Behavioral and Classroom Expectations

- Be in the classroom PRIOR TO the tardy bell/starting time.
- Come to class PREPARED and ready to learn (See list of required materials).
- DO NOT talk while the teacher or another student is speaking ("RESPECT").
- No food, gum or drinks are permitted in class, with the exception of water (**School Rules**). This applies to in-person classes.
- Assure that personal electronic devices are turned off and are put away (**School Rules**). During classroom time your full attention should be focused on the course not personal electronics.
- DO NOT pack up your belongings before the bell rings, unless advised to do so, wait for dismissal by the teacher.
- At the end of each in-person class period/block, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that your workspace is left in order – desk is to be returned to original location, books picked up off the floor, and any borrowed materials (art supplies etc...) returned to their proper location.
- Pick up after yourself – and others. Our classroom (and our school) is a place we need to take pride in. If you see trash, pick it up. If something is out of place, return it to the right place.
- ***Two Golden Rules:*** Be *respectful* and *always use common* sense when taking any action or making comments.

Materials you need to bring to class every day

- Yourself (attend class every day)
- A pen and a #2 pencil (it can often be helpful to carry a couple of each)
- A set of color pencils
- Scissors
- Glue Stick
- Basic ruler
- 3-ring binder with dividers **for each** of your subjects
- Three-hole punched, college-ruled, lined paper
- Student planner/calendar

Academic Behavior Expectations

- A classroom discipline form will be maintained for each student
- Students must show a serious dedication to their own learning whether it be online or in person. Every student has a different aptitude for different classes, but all students are expected to put their best effort into the class.
- Instances in which students are not serious may include, but are not limited to:
 - Persistently talking off task
 - Using inappropriate, insulting, or threatening language
 - Misusing classroom or personal supplies
 - Behaviors more appropriate for extra-curricular time
 - Playing video games while in the classroom.
- When a student does not show their best effort and distracts others from their efforts, an appropriate consequence will be delivered and documented. If a student shows a pattern of offenses, parents will be notified.