

Mr. Scarola's 8th Grade Social Studies Syllabus

Scope of Content

Social Studies in the 8th grade is an American history course that focuses primarily on early American history, civics and civil rights. Topics include the three branches of government; our founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and important historical events, such as the American Revolution, the Civil War, the achievement of voting rights for women, and more. A special emphasis is placed on historical thinking and understanding the central role of primary sources in the study of history. The units of study are as follows:



- Unit 1: Settlement and Colonial America
- Unit 2: American Revolution and New Government
- Unit 3: Expansion and Slavery
- Unit 4: Civil War and Reconstruction

Major Skills

- Analyze similarities and difference between past and current events
- Evaluate impacts of significant events on the social, political, and economic structure of the U.S.
- Analyze connections among local, state, and national events
- Assess primary and secondary sources
- Debate instances where rights and responsibilities are in conflict throughout history
- Develop historical empathy and perspective

Primary SVS Student Learner Outcomes

<u>Answering a Call to Citizenship</u> using: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Awareness● Respect● Participation & Collaboration● Leadership	<u>Defending Conclusions & Judgments</u> using: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Structure● Critical Stance● Insight & Argument● Evidence● Defense● Evaluation● Fluency
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Textbook

Savvas-American History-MyWorld Interactive-2025

Required Materials

In order to complete the various classroom and homework activities, this course requires that students have the following with them each day:

- Social Studies Notebook and paper
- Charged Chromebook
- Pencil
- Pen
- Highlighters

Grading Policy

Formative Assignments (Homework/Classwork): 20%

Interim Assignments (Quizzes): 50%

Summative Assignments (Tests/Projects/Research Papers): 30%

Makeup Policy (from SVS handbook):

In order to elevate student self-discipline, diligence, and pride, the following make-up standards are in effect:

- A student must schedule make-up work directly with the teacher on the day he/she returns to school. The student must see the teacher before class or after class to specifically schedule make-up work.
- Incomplete work after one calendar week will result in a grade of zero.
- Teachers will work long and hard with students, but students must be self-disciplined and diligent about scheduling and carrying out make-up work.
- In the event of a longer/excused absence, the student must consult with his/her guidance counselor to arrange a make-up schedule which must then be followed.
- Students who will be out an extended time must work with counselors and

parents to determine alternative means to complete school work. (Please refer to the Student Support Services section in handbook)



Late Assignment Policy:

Interim and Summative Assignments:

Students are expected to complete all assigned work so that learning can be properly assessed and teaching can be properly adjusted. There will be a penalty for late work. For the most part, this penalty will be a deduction of five percent per day up to twenty-five percent. Late work will be accepted up to five school days after the due date. In the case of extenuating circumstances that require an extension beyond five days, a conference will be held to determine a reasonable, structured timeline.

New: Rewrite

Students must make every effort to submit work on time. Late work impacts the entire class since teachers cannot discuss answers/ideas until all work is submitted. In addition, students who hand in their work late have additional time and opportunity that has not been afforded to other students. As a general rule, late work, *excluding* homework assignments, will be penalized for each day late, up to five school days, generally: maximum grade of A- (1 day late), B (2 days late), C+ (3 days late), C- (4 days late), D (5 days late), and not accepted after five days. The acceptance of late homework is at the teacher's discretion. Since teachers often review the homework answers in class, it is not possible to accept homework after work is reviewed. Teachers will share their practices with each class. Please note: If a student is in the building on a specific day, they have an obligation to submit a pre-assigned project/assignment to the appropriate teacher(s). Late arrival or early dismissal is not an acceptable excuse for late submission or a pre-assigned project/assignment. In addition, if a student reports to the nurse instead of a class, they have an obligation to submit any pre-assigned project/assignment to the appropriate teacher(s). **If a student arrives late to school, leaves early, or reports to the nurse instead of a class, they must submit pre-assigned project/assignment to the appropriate teacher(s) or the work will be considered late.** Note: Students cannot pass a class for a quarter unless all summative assignments are submitted and reflect a good faith effort.

Formative:

Each homework assignment is given a Letter Grade value. Late or incomplete homework will not result in full credit. In some cases, late homework cannot be accepted, for example, if the teacher has reviewed the work and given answers in class.

Absences

You have one day to complete make-up work for every day absent. For example, if you are absent for two days, you will have two days upon your return to school to make up your work. If not, the assignment(s) will be scored a "O".

Students are expected to promptly make-up missed work/gather materials/get notes from a classmate. In the case of extended absences, it is an expectation that the student will meet with Mr. Scarola to create a plan for any missed/late work.

Extra Help

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your coursework, materials, etc. be sure to contact me (scarolat@region-12.org) so we can schedule a meeting and/or create a plan.