

Calallen ISD 2025-2026
Syllabus - Template

Campus: Calallen Middle School

Course and/or Grade Level: 8th grade Social Studies

Course Description: This course is a survey of American History from Prehistoric times through the United States Civil War and Reconstruction. It stresses the geographic, economic, political, social and cultural influences on the development of the United States. Democratic attitudes, values, and skills for citizenship are stressed as appropriate.

Semester 1: August 13 – December 19, 2025

1st Quarter Topics	2nd Quarter Topics
Era 1: Exploration and Colonization • Early Settlements in the New World • The Original 13 Colonies • The Growth of Representative Government Era 2: American Independence • Discontent with the British Empire • The War for Independence • The Articles of Confederation to the Constitutional Convention • Disagreements – The Federalists v. Anti Federalists	Era 3: Writing the Constitution • The Great Compromise • The Bill of Rights and the Amendment Process • The 3/5th Compromise Era 4: The Early Republic • From Washington to JQ Adams • The War of 1912 • The Louisiana Purchase and Expansion of States • The Era of Good Feelings Era 5: The Age of Jackson • Andrew Jackson • The Spoils System • The Corrupt Bargain • The Nullification Crisis and the Bank War • The use of Political Cartoons

Semester 2: January 5 – May 29, 2026

3 rd Quarter Topics	4 th Quarter Topics
Era 6: The First Industrial Revolution in the US • The Lowell Mills • Eli Whitney and the Growth of Cotton in the South • Urbanization and Technological Advances • The Expansion of Slavery • The Erie Canal and the Expansion of Trade Era 7: Westward Expansion • The Annexation of Texas • The Mexican American War and the Gadsden Purchase • Manifest Destiny • Conflict with the Native Americans Era 8: Reform Movements • The Second Great Awakening • The Abolitionist Movement • The Temperance Movement Era 9: Sectionalism and Civil War • The Missouri Compromise • The Compromise of 1850 • The Kansas-Nebraska Act • Important Supreme Court Cases • The Civil War (people, battles, and events)	Era 10: Reconstruction • The Freedman’s Bureau • Sharecropping • The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendment • Political, economic and social change STAAR Test Review: Review Eras 1-10 STAAR Test 4/16/26

**Minor adjustment to the schedule may be made based on campus schedules and student needs.*