Sinaloa Middle School
A California School To Watch
A California Gold Ribbon School
2026 - 2027

United States History & Geography

with Mrs. Henderson

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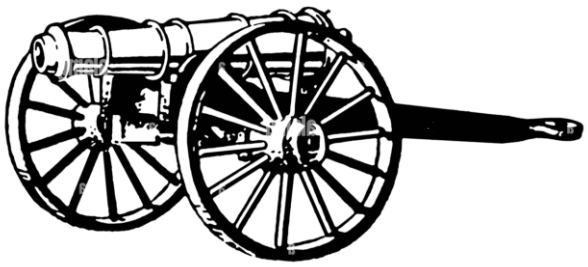
My Website: Google Classroom, Aeries, & https://tinyurl.com/UShistorywithmrshenderson

Dear Students, Parents, & Guardians,

Hi! My name is Mrs. Henderson, and this is my nineth year here at Sinaloa Middle School. I have lived in Simi Valley for nearly all my life. I grew up in the Simi Valley Unified School District and even went to Sinaloa as a student. After graduating from Royal High School (Go Highlanders!), I attended Moorpark College, transferred to Cal State Northridge, and then attended Cal Lutheran University for my credential. I recently graduated from CLU again with my Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership. My passion is teaching history, educated & moral citizenship, and the future leaders of our world. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my husband, our two adorable cats, and kayaking. I am excited to have the opportunity to share my passion with your student and inspire them to connect with the past, so we are more prepared for our future.

Course Overview:

Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school. Information regarding specific standards can be found at www.cde.ca.gov. Students in 8th grade U.S. History will learn about the founding and colonization of America, the Native Americans colonizers encountered, the causes of the American Revolution, and the birth of a new nation including the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In addition, students will learn about the First Industrial Revolution, Manifest Destiny, and the issue of slavery in America. We will conclude the year by learning the causes and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction.



Online Grades:

Grades will be available online using the **AERIES** portal log in. Both students and parents are encouraged to log in **WEEKLY** to track their progress in this class as well as their other classes. Grades are usually **updated once a week** so please check often!

Academic Standards:

Grades are **earned** by students, not given by teachers. The student's degree of mastery of the California Academic Standards is the critical element in determining the letter grade in this class. Students will demonstrate mastery in this class by participating in class discussions, activities, and lessons as well as completing projects, assignments, writing, and assessments fully and on time. Grades will be weighted as follows: Assignments are 40% and Assessments are 60% of the grade. Based on the points earned in each category, the total percentages for each category will be calculated and added together to make up the overall letter grade earned using the standard scholastic grading system below:

A	100% to 90%
B	89% to 80%
C	79% to 70%
D	69% to 60%
F	59% or lower



Class Rules & Expectations

Sinaloa's SABER CODE is the foundation or behavior expectations on our campus and in my classroom. For more information on schoolwide policies and expectations, please review the agenda book, viewable online at sinaloa.simivalleyusd.org.

My Classroom Rules & Rights:

Rule #1 - Respect your teacher, classmates, classroom, and classroom materials at all times.
Rule #2 - Listen and follow directions quickly and quietly to the best of your ability.
Rule #3 - Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking or leaving your seat.
Rule #4 - Remain in your assigned seat unless given
Rule #5 - Be in your assigned seat, with your needed materials, and working on the warmup before the bell rings

Right #1 - Right to not be discriminated against based on your ethnicity, sex, age, ability, gender, religion, etc.
Right #2 - Right to feel safe in this classroom and on this campus
Right #3 - Right to your opinion as long as you can defend it with your words and evidence
Right #4 - Right to be assessed on your own knowledge and understanding of the material
Right #5 - Right to an education free from distractions from yourself or others

Students who regularly do not meet the above expectations will earn the following consequences:

- 1st – Warning
- 2nd - Teacher detention/behavior reflection
- 3rd - After School Detention
- 4th - Referral to assistant principal
- 5th - Class suspension

Students who meet all the expectations will earn:

- Their work posted proudly in the classroom
- Able to use classroom couches and headphones during independent work time & earn other class perks
- Positive phone calls, emails, or notes sent home

History Class Materials

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have all materials for class each day. All students will be provided with the following to keep or borrow:

1. History journal
2. Pencil with eraser
3. Blue pen
4. Laptop



Tardy Policy

Students are considered tardy if they are **not in their seat ready to begin the day's lesson when the bell rings**. Students who do not have the materials needed for the day and must go back to their lockers or previous class will be marked tardy; this includes to return their backpacks to their lockers. If you are consistently tardy, you may be assigned detention, referred to the assistant principal, and/or receive a drop in your citizenship grade.

Google Classroom



Google Classroom will be the **primary mode** of assignment and information disbursement. Students should check their Google Classroom and school email daily to be up to date in this class.

Latework Policy

All work is due on the given due date by the teacher. If students want their work graded in a timely manner, they must turn it in on time. Late work does not take priority in the grading process and will be graded after all current work is graded and before the next grade report. Students will have the opportunity to turn classwork in late for full credit up to a week after the due date. Assignments turned in after the one-week grace period will only be able to earn up to 50% per teacher discretion.

Homework & Absences

Homework: Homework assignments are to **finish any in-class assignment they did not complete during class**. This includes studying for upcoming tests/quizzes, working on projects, finishing late/missing work, completing classroom assignments, & reviewing their notes.

Absent Work: Students who are absent are expected to make-up the work they missed. **It is the responsibility of the students to find out what they missed and complete the work within the same number of days they were absent.** Any work assigned prior to a student's absence is due on the original date or upon the student's return to class. Absent work can be found on Google Classroom or in the Absent work bin in the classroom.

Citizenship Points

Students will all start with a Satisfactory or "S" in citizenship. This means they are meeting the expectations of class everyday and have not lowered their citizenship. Not meeting the class norms and expectations consistently in the classroom or on campus will result in the lowering of their citizenship. The first three "strikes" result in a "N" or Needs Improvement. Anyone earning four or above receives a "U" or Unsatisfactory citizenship. Students and parents/guardians can reach out to Mrs. Henderson at any time to ask what their citizenship grade is.

Cheating & Plagiarism

Any type of academic fraud will not be tolerated in this class, on this campus, or online. Academic fraud includes but is not limited to copying another's work, passing other's work off as your own, using work from a previous year, copying and pasting answers, making a copy of another student's assignment, or using any AI generators. **Additionally, students who talk during a test, even if they are finished taking the test, will earn a zero on the test with no opportunity to make it up.** *Any student found plagiarizing or cheating will receive a zero on the assignment, be referred to counseling, and an automatic drop in their citizenship grade.*

I want YOU to show up on time and NOT cheat.



Historically Academic Movie List

Dear Parents & guardians of Mrs. Henderson' History classes,

Throughout the school year, as we study various eras, cultures, religions, and histories, I utilize quality videos and media sources in our instruction. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) ask students to analyze visual media and compare/contrast written works with their video/multimedia counterparts (RL7, RI7). We will always include discussion time prior to and/or following the video to assess what we have viewed and to address the standards. Many times we will view just a portion of the video to highlight historical events and bring history alive for our students.

All of the options will relate in some way to the unit that we are currently studying (i.e. *Gettysburg* for our Civil War unit). Below you will find a list of the videos with the ratings that ***might*** be used for these purposes. All videos are available for parental viewing upon request. I recommend using the website commonsensemedia.org which has in-depth details, but feel free to email me with any concerns, as well.

Thank you,

Mrs. Henderson

U.S. History 8 - Academic Documentaries for use within curriculum	**U.S. History 8 - Feature Films for deeper understanding**
America: The Story of Us (NR) *The Men Who Built America* (NR) *Thomas Jefferson* (NR) *History Channel: Transcontinental Railroad* (NR) *PBS: Reconstruction, The Second Civil War* (NR) *Emancipation Road* (NR) *History Channel: Underground Railroad* (NR) *Modern Marvels*: Cotton Episode (NR) *Trail of Tears* (PG) *The Alamo* (NR) *School House Rock* (G) *History Channel: Ben Franklin Tech* (NR) *National Geographic: Lewis & Clark* (NR)	*Patriot* (R) *censored version/appropriate clips *1776* (PG) *How the West was Won* (G) *Gettysburg* (PG) *Gone with the Wind* (G) *Glory* (R) *censored version//appropriate clips *An American Tail* (G) *Free State of Jones* (R) *censored version//appropriate clips *Harriet* (PG-13) *Lincoln* (PG-13) *National Treasure* (PG) *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* (PG) *Night at the Museum: Night at the Smithsonian* (PG)

Student & Parent/Guardian Signature Sheet

Student Name: _____ Block/Period: _____

DIRECTIONS:
Please initial which item you are indicating as your response.

CLASSROOM VIDEO RELEASE

____I give my student permission to watch **ALL** of the movies listed on the attached letter.

____I would prefer an alternate assignment be given to my student.

____I give my student permission to watch all movies from the list **EXCEPT** those listed here:_____

_____

_____

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT PLAN/COURSE RULES AND POLICIES

By signing below, you are indicating you have read the course policies for Mrs. Henderson's U.S. History 8 course. We understand the rules, expectations, and consequences as stated in the plan.

Parent/Guardian Signature Student Signature Date

_____ _____ _____

Any additional comments you'd like Mrs. Henderson to know? Write them below.