

U.S. History Course Syllabus

Teacher: Jeff Kash

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Course Description:

The Grade eight course examines United States history and geography concentrating on the growth of the United States during the period of colonization through the Age of Industrialization. The course begins with an intensive investigation and review of the major ideas, issues, and events preceding the founding of the nation. The course then concentrates on the shaping of the Constitution and the nature of the government that it created. The development of unique regions in the West, Northeast, and the South and the causes and consequences of the Civil War, is covered in depth. The course studies the movement of people into and within the United States; the experiences of diverse groups (women, racial, religious, ethnic, and economic classes) and their contributions to the evolving American identity. The course also connects historical issues to current affairs in order to develop a greater understanding of the basic institutions and policies of the nation.

Textbook: McDougal/Littell: Creating America

Class Web Site – Mr. Kash's History Page can be found at <http://mrkash.com>.

All class assignments can be found on the Activities section of the web site. Please utilize this resource at your convenience. You can also check your grades on this Website.

Materials: Binder or portfolio (to keep all papers in), paper, pens and pencils

*Other materials may be needed for special projects (i.e. posters).

Homework Policy: Review notes and assignments at home daily; complete anything that hasn't been completed in class; periodic homework assignments and projects will be done at home.

Grading Policy: All grades are based on points earned on class work, homework, quizzes, tests, and projects.

90% or above A

80% to 89% B

70% to 79% C

59% to 69% D

Below 59% Fail

Make up work is given for students that are absent. It is up to the student to find out what they have missed. If a student is going to be absent for more than three days, please call school and ask for work to be sent home.

Units of Study

Instructional Component 1: Foundations of America (Standards 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4)

8.1 – Students understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American Constitutional democracy.

8.2 – Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.

8.3 – Students understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.

8.4 – Students analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.

Instructional Component 2: Foreign Policy, Divergent Paths (Standards 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9)

8.5 – Students analyze U.S. foreign policy in the early Republic.

8.6 – Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced, with emphasis on the Northeast.

8.7 – Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the South from 1800 to the mid- 1800s and the challenges they faced.

8.8 – Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the West from 1800 to the mid- 1800s and the challenges they faced.

8.9 – Students analyze the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.

Instructional Component 3: Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialization (Standards 8.10, 8.11, 8.12)

8.10 – Students analyze the multiple causes, key events and complex consequences of the Civil War.

8.11 – Students analyze the character and lasting consequences of Reconstruction.

8.12 – Students analyze the transformation of the American economy and the changing social and political conditions in the United States in response to the Industrial Revolution.