

Course Syllabus U.S. History

Teacher: Mr. Staples

Preparation Period 2nd Period

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Room Number: 19

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Course Description:

The 8th grade year is a study of critical events, issues and individuals in United States History from the founding of the nation to 1914. It begins with a selective review of the Age of Exploration, the colonial period and the development of the Constitution, the impact of the Westward Movement, the struggles of the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the impact of Industrialization.

All Units include an examination of the impact of economics, politics, and social history on the development of the United States. The five themes of geography (location, movement, region, place and human environmental interaction) are woven into all the units, with emphasis on how geography affected the development of the growing nation.

This course involves the writing of summaries, narratives, and responses to literature, persuasive compositions, and research-based essays in preparations for the college preparatory high school curriculum.

Academic Objectives:

The eighth grade U.S History course utilizes rigorous curriculum and strategies. Students will be expected to participate in higher level skill development and learning strategies in order to attain mastery of the California History/Social Science Standards in eighth grade. Eighth grade students will learn to read, analyze, evaluate and express inter-related concepts regarding the creation and lasting principles of the United States.

Student Behavior Plan

Eighth grade students are expected to apply their best effort and be respectful of peers and teacher at all times. Scandinavian Middle School is a safe and nurturing environment that believes in providing every student the opportunity to reach their full potential. The school assertive discipline will be utilized in order to provide the best learning environment for every child.

Minor infractions – verbal warning

Repeated minor infractions – lunch detention, parent contact

Defiance, Disrespect and/or major infractions – office referral/classroom suspension.

Grading

Student grades are maintained on Atlas. Scores of 0 represent no work returned. Missing work can be completed for the current grading period up to 5 days before the last day of the quarter. Late work will have a penalty of 1 point from the earned grade. Quizzes and tests can be retaken for an improved grade during the students time (lunch or after school) within 5 days of the due date.



100% - 90% = A

89% - 80% = B

79% - 70% = C

69% - 60% = D

59% - 0% = F

Should anything arise that requires a change in grading, students and parents will be notified in advance.

Course Assessments:

- Daily assignments and HW
- Test results
- Quiz results
- Student Portfolio
- Projects
- Writing assignments/ DBQ's

Homework:

Students are expected to apply academic effort in order to achieve mastery of the state and district standards. Homework is assigned to reinforce new learning concepts and to practice new skills. Students are provided sufficient time in class to complete their assignments if they use their time wisely, however sometimes homework will be assigned and it is due back complete the next day.

District Goals:

- All students will excel in reading, writing, and math
- All students will engage in arts, activities, and athletics
- All students will demonstrate the character and competencies for workplace success
- All students will stay in school on target to graduate

Materials required (daily):

- Scan Agenda
- Pencil
- Colored pencils (12)

Late Work Policy:

Late work is accepted if returned within the current grading period. It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to get and complete the work.

Effect of Absence on Grade



- If a student's absence is excused under Education Code 48205, he/she shall be allowed to complete any missed assignment or test that be reasonably given, as determined by the teacher of that class. The student shall be given full credit for the assignment or test if he/she satisfactorily completes the assignment or test within a reasonable period of time. (Education Code 48205)
- Excused Absences – Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law and Board policy and specified in administration regulations. (Education Code 48205)

Expectations/Student's Responsibilities:

- Be in class every day. If absent, check in with your teacher on the first day back to class.
- Tardies are not acceptable. Make sure you have the appropriate pass when you return to class. No pass equals a tardy.
- Students are required to complete all class work.
- No gum allowed on school grounds and classroom.
- Use the bathroom before coming to class.
- Have your agenda at all times.
- Be in your seat ready to work. Not in your seat means you are tardy.
- Teacher dismisses the students not the bell.
- Need to sharpen a pencil? Raise pencil and the teacher will allow you to sharpen pencil. Except when the teacher is giving direct instruction.
- Drink water before coming to class. You may bring a water bottle to class, but it must be kept in your backpack.
- Come prepared to work with all your materials.
- Be positive. Remember school is a safe learning environment.
- Be respectful. That includes respect towards adults and your classmates.
- Finally, be attentive and do not talk when the teacher is giving instructions. Please raise your hand.

Hall Pass and Restroom:

Students are expected to be in class on time and ready to learn. Students are allowed to use the restroom three times during each semester. Plenty of time is provided between classes and students should use that time wisely. Students who do not use their restroom passes are given extra credit for planning and participating in their education.

Tardy Policy:

Professional behavior includes punctuality (arriving to class on time). Students who are late to class must have a tardy pass; students who do not have a pass will be asked to obtain one from a campus administrator. Students who demonstrate a pattern of tardiness will be assigned class detention in order to make up for lost instructional

time. An excessive number of tardies will be addressed through the Scandinavian Restorative Discipline Policy.

Distance learning (If Necessary) will be conducted on teams by period. McGraw Hill in Clever and Teams are the only two programs that students will have to be able to use. Should a mandatory Distance learning be instituted complete directions will be provided to every student.

Parent – Student – Teacher Agreement Letter

Hello Parents and Students, This is going to be an exciting school year and I am looking forward to helping you reach your potential. Please work hard, apply yourself and ask questions anytime you are not clear about a new learning concept.

Best regards,

Mr. Staples,

Scandinavian Middle School

Parent/Guardian Printed

Parent/Guardian

Date

Student name and ID Number Printed

Student Signature

Date

