

American History (8th Grade)
Mr. Gadsby
Room 101

Course Description

American history is the survey of the American people from the end of the Revolutionary War to American imperialism. It provides the history of all Americans, including African-Americans, Native Americans, and all other ethnic and minority groups. Throughout, there is an emphasis on the values and ideas that have guided and shaped the American nation. The achievements and failures in establishing and strengthening these values and ideals are presented as a central part of the student's understanding of the nation's past. In addition, an emphasis, the 1st 2 weeks, will be on the geography of North and South America. Map skills that will be presented are location of important places, physical features, cultural areas in the United States, migration patterns, and how humans have interacted with the environment.

Textbook Used: Holt McDougal *United States History: Beginnings to 1914*

Required Materials:

Students are responsible for supplying their own pencils, textbook, and a 3 ring binder for class notes and class worksheets.
Detentions will be given if you fail to bring the required material

Additional Help: Mr. Gadsby or Guidance Department

Homework policy:

1. IT IS **IMPERATIVE** THAT ALL HOMEWORK IS DONE. THIS INCLUDES BOTH IN-CLASS AND OUT-OF-CLASS WORK.
2. All graded work is due at the beginning of class the day it is due.
3. Assignments turned in late will be worth ½ credit.
4. After one day, NO late assignments will be accepted.

Absent Policy:

1. It is **YOUR** responsibility to hand to me all homework when you return.
2. It is **YOUR** responsibility to check the absent folders when you return to pick up any material given out.
3. It is **YOUR** responsibility to copy any notes from someone that you have missed.

Grading:

The following are the areas that students are graded in:

- Quizzes
- Tests
- Homework
- Civil War project
- Participation
- Notebook
- Worksheets/maps
- Written and reading assignments

1. Grades are based on total points each of the 9 weeks
2. Final Grades are based on average of the four 9 weeks

Classroom Rules

1. **Be on time.** As you enter class, go to your seat and get ready. You need to be in your seat when the bell rings
2. **Be prepared for class:** Each day bring your textbook, notebooks, pen or pencil, and homework if due.
3. **Be Responsible.** When you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the absent folder, turn in homework you have missed and ask someone in the room the notes/material you have missed
4. **Be appropriate.** Any inappropriate behaviors as listed in the Student Handbook will not be tolerated. This also includes sleeping in class.
5. **Be polite in class.** When participating in class, please raise your hand. When others are participating, be courteous and listen.
6. **Be Respectful in class.** This would include respect for any person in class, teacher, substitute and other students.
7. **Be organized.** Your notes will be collected and graded. Please write legible and have your material organize to get the maximum points
8. **Be quiet during test time.** On all chapter tests, please be quiet and have something to work on after the test.
9. **Cell Phones**—see school policy in student handbook
 - a. 1st infraction – warning
 - b. 2nd infraction and others— phone taken to office, and detention

Time	Material Covered During Time Period	Notes
Geography 1 WEEK	Basic Geographic concepts; how to examine a map; 5 themes of geography	
REVIEW Chapters 1-3 2 weeks	Review of American History (Pre-history to 1770s)	
Chapter 4 2 weeks	American Revolutionary War	Chapter tests will be given upon completion of chapter.
CHAPTER 5 2 WEEKS	FORMING A GOVERNMENT	
CHAPTER 6 2 WEEKS	Citizenship and the Constitution	
CHAPTER 7 2 WEEKS	Launching the Nation	
CHAPTER 8 2 ½ WEEKS	The Jefferson Era	Lewis and Clark Project
CHAPTER 9 2 WEEKS	A New National Identity	
CHAPTER 10 2 weeks	The Age of Jackson	
CHAPTER 11 2 ½ WEEKS	Expanding West	Oregon Trail Activities
CHAPTER 12 2 WEEKS	Industrial Growth in the North	1st Industrial Growth Activities
CHAPTER 13 2 WEEKS	Agricultural Changes in the South	
CHAPTER 14 2 WEEKS	New Movements in America	Station projects/ computer based activities
CHAPTER 15 2 ½ WEEKS	A Divided Nation	
CHAPTER 16 3 ½ WEEKS	The Civil War	Civil War project
CHAPTER 17 2 WEEKS	Reconstruction	
CHAPTER 18 2 WEEKS	Americans Move West	