

## 8th Grade US History Syllabus

Port Charlotte Middle School

Mrs. Norris, instructor

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**Course description:** This course follows the guidelines set by the Charlotte County School District. The main focus of this course is the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization period to the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on World History.

**Standards:** This class' standards are based upon and adhere to the Next Generation Sunshine Standards as specified in the Florida State Statutes.

**Class information:** In this class, we will be doing an assortment of learning activities including the following: vocabulary, close readings, primary source document analysis, DBQ's (document based questions and essays), cooperative learning, projects, choice boards, Cornell notes, maps, videos, and a variety of writing assignments.

**Google Classroom Information:** This class will be using Google Classroom for the majority of the year. This means that we are nearly 100% paper free and do the majority of our assignments on-line. Each student will be assigned to a Google Classroom that can also be accessed from home. In case of absences, all assignments and information can be accessed from home using the school-issued Chromebook.

### Class Expectations:

- **Manners:** In order for everyone to have the best learning experience, it is expected of everyone to have good manners in class and behave appropriately.
  - Show respect to your classmates, your teacher, and yourself at all times
  - Raise your hand to speak
  - Stay in your seat unless you ask permission
  - Listen actively to others and don't interrupt
  - Come to class prepared and on time
  - Be kind and work with others
- **Referrals:** I will follow the PCMS code of conduct and referral guidelines.
- **Attendance:** Please make every attempt to be in class everyday. You will gain so much more from this class if you are present to learn all the material.
- **Be on time:** It is very important that you are in your seat working before the bell rings.

**Responsibility:** I will also be getting you ready for high school. Therefore, we will be working on making you a responsible student. It is your responsibility to check the board and Google Classroom for assignments daily. In order to establish good work habits for high school and later in life, be proactive in getting your work done on time everyday.

- **Late Work:** I do realize that there are times you may forget to complete an assignment. Therefore, I will grade late work according to the following:
  - 10% penalty - 1 day late
  - 50% penalty - 2 days late

- No grade after 3 days
- **Absent:** Always check your Google Classroom from home when you are absent. It is your responsibility to complete any work you missed when you were absent. The assignment will be posted in Google Classroom as well as on the board in the school classroom. You can access your online textbook through Classlink on the “McGraw Hill ConnectEd” icon.
  - **Absent Work:** I follow the PCMS rules regarding absences - **2 days for every day absent** without penalty. On the 3rd day, I will follow my late work guidelines.
- **Help:** I am here to help anytime you need it! If you would like additional help before or after school, just ask me and we can make arrangements together.
- **Extra Credit:** Extra credit is only given as EXTRA work. If you feel you need additional points after you have completed all of your assignments, please see me to discuss your options.

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, the students will be able to.

- Explain the dramatic impact of European exploration and colonization of the Americas upon the indigenous populations.
- Describe how the experiences of the colonies shaped America’s political and social ideals.
- Explain the events and ideas that influenced the writing of the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.
- Identify the important events that occurred during the terms of the first two U.S. Presidents.
- Describe the events that strengthened the nation during the Jefferson Era.
- Describe the impact of Andrew Jackson’s presidency on the nation.
- Outline how westward expansion transformed the nation.
- Describe the political, economic and social changes that occurred in the North and South from 1790-1860.
- Understand sectionalism through a comparison and contrast of the northern and southern regions.
- Clarify how the issue of slavery divided the nation and led to the Civil War.
- Understand the causes of the Civil War and the effect on the American People.

**Supplies required daily:**

- 1 inch 3 ring binder
- notebook paper **OR** spiral notebook
- earbuds or headphones (they do not have to be expensive - they are \$1 at Dollar Tree)
- pencil
- highlighters - 3 different colors
- Chromebook

**Contact Information:** Please feel free to contact me anytime you have any questions. The best way to reach me is by email.

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**Planning:** - 2nd hour 10:05-10:55