

*Eighth Grade American History*  
*Mr. Tardiff*  
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*Room 105 in the Middle School*

## **I. Course Overview:**

Grade 8 students will examine the history of America from Colonial times thru Reconstruction and Industrialization. This study of the American past will introduce students to the foundations of liberty and the growth of the United States.

## **II. Overall Course Objectives:**

Content outcomes: Students will

- explore Revolutionary Era events and understand how conflict in the colonies led to the establishment of our republican form of government.
- analyze events preceding the Civil War Era and then compare major events in the North and the South during and after the war.
- identify major changes that led to the industrialization of the United States and contrast how these events influenced the new Urban Culture.

Skill outcomes: Students will be able to

- list events in American history and describe its effects on the people of the United States as well as other countries.
- explain the various reasons the United States turned to war to settle differences.
- select and apply relevant information from an array of historical sources.
- understand the significance of compromise and its outcome.
- respond with opposing viewpoints to historical arguments.
- interpret major historical trends and its impact on society.
- make connections between the text, other historical texts and their own personal history.
- communicate ideas and views in a variety of ways to an audience.

## **III. Materials Required:**

- Required Textbook: Davidson, Dr. James West, and Stoff, Dr. Michael B. The American Nation. Boston: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005
- two 1” three-ringed binders
- Pens (blue or black)/pencils
- Highlighters
- Index cards

Students will use their binder to keep class notes and handouts. After each chapter test, students will submit their notes and handouts which will be stored and returned before the midterm and final. Students will use the second binder to create a portfolio of their work.

#### IV. Classroom Behavior Expectations:

Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be considerate of others' belongings</li><li>• Listen when teachers or other students are talking</li><li>• Enter the room quietly</li><li>• Treat fellow students, teachers, and other staff/adults in a positive and polite manner</li><li>• Take care of school property</li><li>• Recognize personal space/boundaries of others</li></ul>
Be Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrive to class ready and prepared with all necessary supplies and materials</li><li>• Recognize the importance of meeting deadlines</li><li>• Actively engage in the learning process</li><li>• Take pride in your work by meeting all classroom expectations</li><li>• Follow all directions</li></ul>
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep hands, feet, objects to self</li><li>• Follow all classroom rules</li><li>• Read and understand all fire drill and lockdown procedures</li></ul>
Be Honest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be truthful at all times</li><li>• Report any unsafe or inappropriate behavior</li><li>• Do your own work</li><li>• Take responsibility for you actions</li></ul>

## V. Attendance Policy:

Please refer to Board of Education Policy #5113.2. This policy can be found starting on page 10 of the Wheeler Middle School Handbook.

## VI. Grading Policy:

Student grades will be determined by dividing points earned by total possible points. This method will be used on individual class assignments as well as quarter grades. For example, if a student has earned 240 points on combined assignments for a quarter out of a possible 300 points, they would earn a B- . ( $240/300=80\%$ )

### Grading Scale

A+=97-100 percent	B+=87-89 percent	C+=77-79 percent	D+=67-69 percent
A= 93-96 percent	B=83-86 percent	C=73-76 percent	D=63-66 percent
A-=90-92 percent	B-= 80-82 percent	C-=70-72 percent	D-=60-62 percent

### Make-Up Work

Students submitting work up to five school days late without prior approval may receive a grade up to two grades lower on the work than they would have received if the work had been submitted on time (a B+ could be lowered to a D+). Student work submitted after five schools days without prior approval shall not be accepted and will be given a 0 as a grade.

## VII. Academic Integrity Statement:

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both

quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.

Disciplinary action by administration, which may include office detention or suspension.

**VIII. Teacher Availability for Extra Help:**

I am available Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays after school from 2:20 until 2:45 until mid-October. After mid-October, I will be available until 3:00. I will always give a bus pass for the elementary bus if one is requested. Students are asked to make an appointment with me in case I have a meeting.

**IX. Wheeler Academic Expectations met by this course:**

- Students will be able to communicate effectively.
- Students will be able to collaborate effectively.
- Students will be able to analyze effectively.
- Students will be able to demonstrate proficient literary skills.

For this class, the analysis academic expectation will be evaluated six times throughout the year and recorded in PowerSchool.

Sign and date below to indicate that you understand the Eighth Grade American History objectives and expectations and agree to help make our classroom a great place to learn by following these guidelines. Thank you.

Student Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_