

Eighth Grade American History
Mr. Tardiff
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Room 149

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.

Common Core History/Social Studies Standards outcomes: Students will

- cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies
- describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).
- identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).
- integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
- distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.
- analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same

III. Wheeler High School Academic Expectations met and evaluated by this course:

Analysis, Collaboration, Communication, Literacy

IV. Materials Required:

- Required Textbook: Davidson, Dr. James West, and Stoff, Dr. Michael B. The American Nation. Boston: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005
- One 2” three-ringed binder
- Pens (blue or black)/pencils
- Highlighters

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.

V. Classroom Behavior Expectations:

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

Be Honest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be truthful at all times • Report any unsafe or inappropriate behavior • Do your own work • Take responsibility for you actions
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VI. Attendance Policy:

A maximum of twenty (20) absences (excused or unexcused) will be permitted without academic penalty. Students who exceed the maximum twenty (20) days may be considered for non-promotion. In an effort to inform parents/guardians of the importance of regular school attendance the school will:

1. Inform the parent/guardian in writing after ten (10) absences are recorded.
2. A meeting will be scheduled with the parent/guardian after fifteen (15) absences are recorded.
3. A letter will be sent to the parents/guardians after twenty (20) absences have been recorded indicating that the child may be considered for non-promotion.

VII. 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.

VIII. MS Academy

The faculty and administration will monitor all Wheeler Middle School students regularly. If students appear on the D and F list they will be asked to participate in MS Academy in an effort to bring their grades up. If their absences have brought their grade down, they will be given opportunities to make up work they missed due to those absences. Some of these MS Academy opportunities will take place on half days where high school students have exams and middle school students typically have early release days. Instead, students will be asked to stay for full days to make up work should the faculty deem necessary. All parents and guardians will be notified if students are required to stay after school on early release days due to being assigned in MS Academy.

IX. 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.

X. Teacher Availability for Extra Help:

I am available Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays after school from 2:25 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.

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 _____