



U.S. HISTORY

CLASS SYLLABUS



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MR. GILLETTE & MR. ALLEN

U.S. History - 8th Grade
Pacific Trails Middle School
2021-22 School Year

U.S. HISTORY

CLASS SYLLABUS

Room B225

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U.S. HISTORY

Welcome to U.S. History!

Welcome to U.S. History! I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and your families over the course of this school year. In this class we'll examine the history of the United States from the Colonial Period (18th century), through the Civil War and Reconstruction, and into the 1900's, Turn of the Century (20th century). We'll focus on the political, economic and social developments that occurred within that period.



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Welcome to U.S. History!

Additionally, you'll be challenged to continue developing academic skills in historical thinking, reading, writing, analysis, as well as organization and teamwork.

Information about this course can be found on both our class website, and google classroom. You'll find a course calendar for each unit, a daily agenda, homework, handouts, and lots of other important stuff. While the website has some valuable information, google classroom as your primary source of information about this course.

Historical Thinking
Class Website
Reading & Writing
Google Classroom
Analysis
Teamwork

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Units of Study

Unit 1: Our Colonial Heritage

Unit 2: Revolution in the Colonies

Unit 3: Becoming a Nation

Unit 4: The New Republic

Unit 5: The American West

Unit 6: The Gathering Storm

Unit 7: A New Birth of Freedom

Unit 8: The Turn of the Century

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Classwork, Projects and Tests

Classwork & Projects: It's important to keep up with classwork and homework assignments. To do that, make sure you bring your chromebook, or another comparable device, each day of class. You may also choose to print notes, and submit a hard copy. Your work must be turned in by the assigned deadline. Work turned in late will be penalized 10% for each day the assignments is late (up to 50%), not including weekends and holidays.

We'll complete several projects during the year. Some will be independent, while others will require you to work within a group. Some projects will be submitted for grading, while others will require you to present your work to the class. Projects turned in late will be subject to the same policy as other classwork.

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Classwork, Projects and Tests

Tests and Quizzes: You can expect one to two quizzes per unit. They will help you to check your understanding of the current unit of study, and build your knowledge heading into the Unit Tests. Unit Tests will be a combination of multiple-choice, and key terms given at the end of each unit.

Dates for tests and quizzes will be announced well in advance. No surprise quizzes. Your guided notes will be your primary source of study material for both the tests and quizzes. Make sure you're keeping up when we take notes together.

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Recommended Materials

As we become a more digital classroom, nearly all of your work will be completed digitally. If you prefer to print materials and handwrite your work, you are welcome to do so. You can turn in a hard copy of any assignment.

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Class Text

All written information will be provided to you through our google presentations. You will not be required to bring a textbook to school. Presentations will be made accessible at the beginning of each lesson. If you prefer to look ahead, please reach out to me and I will provide you with access to the presentations at the start of each new unit.

If you prefer to read printed materials, please reach out to me and I will provide you with a print friendly version of all written materials.

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Classroom Behavior

When the bell rings, please be in your assigned seat. Do not drop your belongings and go back outside of the room. When class begins you are expected to...

- ☐ Do your best work.
- ☐ Be kind to your classmates.
- ☐ Keep an open mind.
- ☐ Try to be positive.
- ☐ Come to class prepared for the day.
- ☐ Treat all classroom supplies with respect

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Classroom Policies

As a general rule, be mindful that our classroom is a shared space and our purpose here is to learn. With that in mind, you're expected to follow the policies below.

- ☐ No eating or drinking in class. Water is okay.
- ☐ Do not leave the room without checking in.
- ☐ Keep your cell phone off and out of site during class.
- ☐ Do not leave or move your seat without permission.
- ☐ Keep your conversations on topic.
- ☐ Treat all classroom supplies with respect

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Discipline Policy

** The following is a flexible plan and subject to change based on the nature of the offense. Serious offenses may require more immediate parent contact and referral to Administration.*

1st Violation: Reminder of expectations.

2nd Violation: Private conference with teacher; also may result in a positive behavior contract.

3rd Violation: Parent conference

4th Violation: Meeting with Assistant Principal (Referral)

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Absence Policy

If you miss class, **it is your responsibility to inform yourself** of what you missed. You can do that using google classroom. Once you've taken a look at the lesson you missed, reach out if you have any questions.

Any work not turned in due to absence must be completed and turned in as soon as possible. The length of time you'll have to complete the work may vary depending on how long you were gone, and how much work was missed. Generally, missing work from a single day should be completed and turned in by the class period after your first day back. If you are gone for an extended period of time, we will work together to set a reasonable deadline for your work.

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Grading

All unit exam results will be available to students and parents to review by appointment. Please check Aeries regularly for current grades. Grades are determined by a point system based on your performance on tests/quizzes (40%), and coursework (60%). The accumulated points will be converted to letter grades and distributed as follows:

A+ = 98-100%

B+ = 88-89.9%

C+ = 78-79.9%

D+ = 68-69.9%

A = 93-97.9%

B = 83-87.9%

C = 73-77.9%

D = 63-67.9%

A- = 90-92.9%

B- = 80-82.9%

C- = 70-72.9%

D- = 59.9-62.9%

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Grading

If you are concerned about a grade on your coursework, please check google classroom for any comments. You can always ask me a question about your grade using the comment function on the assignment. If you still have questions, we can review your work during Homeroom or office hours by appointment.

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Academic Honesty

Students and parents are expected to read the SDUHSD Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, in any form, is not tolerated, and this class maintains a high expectation for each student. Students who knowingly engage in academic dishonesty will face the following consequences:

- You will lose credit for the assignment.
- You will be referred to an administrator for documentation and possible disciplinary action.

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