

8th Grade American History Origins -> Reconstruction

Mr. Mylenek

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Course Description:

This course will focus on the beginning of America up to the period of reconstruction. We will use lecture, readings, discussions, videos, and projects to gain an understanding of how our country began and developed. The entire course will be paperless. All class work, projects and tests will be completed and submitted in digital form. A home computer with internet access is NOT required for this course. This class will be taught in a computer lab. Any students needing to use the lab after school will need to arrange it with myself or another computer teacher first.

Textbook:

Creating America- A History of the United States

Students will use a classroom set of textbooks. Take home books are readily available if needed, but are to be checked out after school and returned promptly the following morning.

Course Objectives:

This course will be taught in compliance with the Michigan Curriculum Framework Standards for History:

Standard 1: Times and Chronology- Students will sequence key events of US history in chronological order to examine relationships and to explain cause and effect.

Standard 2: Comprehending the Past- Students will understand narratives about major eras of US history by identifying people involved, describing the setting and sequencing the events.

Standard 3: Analyzing and Interpreting the Past- Students will reconstruct the past by comparing interpretations written by others from a variety of perspectives and creating their own narratives from evidence.

Standard 4: Judging Decisions from the Past- All students will evaluate key decisions and actions made at critical turning points in history by assessing their implications and long term consequences.

Required Material:

There are no required materials for this course.

- A pen and paper might be useful for students who like to take notes.
- A free reading book or magazine for students who finish early.
- A USB jump drive to save items for use at home.
- Headphones for sites that read text or use sound and video.

Paperless class info

WEBSITE: <https://mrmylenek.wikispaces.com/>

CLASS: 8__ Wiki

Login: _____

PASSWORD: _____

I strongly recommend that every student uses the same user name and password for all accounts created throughout the year. If a student loses or forgets a password it could end up hurting their grade.

Class Rules:

1. Follow all school rules.
2. Maintain a positive learning environment.

Computer and Internet use

Aside from textbooks, the entirety of this course will be on the computers. Any improper computer or internet use will result in the loss of access to the technology and therefor ensure a lower grade in the course. Proper and mature use of the technology is expected at all times. Students and guardians must submit a signed technology agreement in order to participate in this class.

Plagiarism:

There will be a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is any form of cheating or copying work. It is an unacceptable practice and will be treated as a Level I Violation. **Copy and pasting text from a website without direct citation is plagiarism.**

Grades:

Grades will be available on-line for parents and students to check at their convenience. I will do my best to update grades at least once a week. For parents without internet access, detailed progress reports can be printed and sent home any time when requested. I encourage all parents and students to take full advantage of this policy to ensure their success in the course.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100%	C	76-73%
A-	90-92%	C-	72-70%
B+	89-87%	D+	69-67%
B	86-83%	D	66-63%
B-	82-80%	D-	62-55%
C+	79-77%	F	54-0%

Marking Period Grade Weights:

Tests and Quizzes	= 30%
Class work	= 30%
Capstone projects	= 20%
Blog	= 10%
Wiki	= 10%

Test and Quizzes:

Small quizzes will be given frequently to help assess the understanding level of students. After every unit a lengthy multiple choice test will be given. Students will always receive advanced notice and an in class review for all major tests.

Classwork:

Class assignments will normally consist of reading either the text or online source and answering questions on an internet form. Daily assignments may be completed from home if a student is absent.

Capstone Projects:

Ideally each semester will contain one week long project. Projects will count for a large portion of the grade and although ample class time will be devoted to them, they will also have a substantial amount of work to complete at home. All capstone projects will be completed with partners or groups as mandated by the state of Michigan. NO exceptions will be made. Towards the end of the 1st quarter I will send home a letter notifying parents/guardians of the project requirements and due dates.

Blogs:

All students will create a blog. Each day there will be a blog prompt or task for them to complete. The blogs will be public so students are discouraged from blogging about personal or sensitive topics. The blog will serve as a place to practice writing skills and to display students work and ideas.

Wiki:

Each student will be assigned an individual country that they are responsible for at the beginning of each semester. Students will be required to maintain a wiki with information on the country and it's current events. There will also be periodic group wiki assignments that will be graded by participation.

Homework:

There is no official homework for this course. Homework will consist of any unfinished classwork or projects that require more time than what is available during class. All homework/classwork is due by the end of school the following day that it was assigned, unless otherwise instructed.

Absent Work:

Students will be allowed one (1) makeup day per absence. Students are responsible for completing all work missed. Each weeks assignment will be available on the class website. Work may be digitally submitted from home if a student is absent.

Late Work:

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Extra Credit:

At least one extra credit assignment will be available on the class website each quarter as well as on every test. Individual extra credit will NEVER be given.

Bathroom:

Students should not ask to use the restroom unless it is an emergency. Only one student will ever be allowed out of the room at a time. If bathroom requests are not made at an appropriate time they WILL NOT be granted. The middle of a lecture, presentation, review, Q&A session, etc are not appropriate times to ask to use the restroom. When using the restroom students are responsible for signing in and out of the room and taking the designated bathroom pass.

Seating Chart:

There will be an established seating chart for the class that will be subject to change at the teachers discretion. If there is ever an issue with an assigned seat please schedule a meeting with me and an alternate seat can be discussed.

Zero tolerance new school policy:

As a staff, we are extremely excited and proud to be in such a beautiful new building. We wish to keep it this way so current and future students can take pride in their facilities. In order to assure this, we have a zero tolerance policy in regards to graffiti, gum chewing, food and drinks in the classroom, and any other issue that could damage this wonderful new building. For returning students be advised that what may have been acceptable in the old building will not be tolerated here. I'm confident that compliance will not be a problem due to the overwhelming feeling of pride I'm certain students will feel when attending class at ATA.

**Please return to Mr. Mylenek ASAP,
it is your first grade of the quarter!**

Contact information

Parents/guardians name/s:

Email address:

Home phone number

Work phone number

Mobile phone number

I have read and understand the rules, procedures, and required materials for Mr. Mylenek's class.

Student _____

Parent/Guardian _____