

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Atkinson

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Room # 208

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The objective of this class is to promote American History curiosity and literacy. Students will gain a working knowledge of the concepts and principles of the study of American History from Colonization through the period of Reconstruction. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States. Students will develop their ability to think historically.

### First Quarter

European Colonization  
The British Colonies  
Life in the British Colonies

### Third Quarter

The American Founding  
The Early Republic  
Age of Jackson

### Second Quarter

French & Indian War  
The Road to American Revolution  
The American Revolution

### Fourth Quarter

Antebellum America  
The American Civil War  
Reconstruction

## TEXTBOOK:

United States History: Beginnings to 1877; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. A wide variety of information and activities will be pulled from various sources in addition to the textbook.

## ASSESSMENT:

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice	--	30%
Performance (Mastery)	--	70%

**Grading Scale:** A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "middle school", "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 19-20 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:**

- **Daily Required Materials:** When the tardy bell rings, students should be in their assigned seat with Chromebook, folder, and other appropriate materials (bags are placed under desks).
- During the first 5 minutes of class, students will complete the daily bell ringer which will be on the projector/whiteboard. This is a graded daily assignment which will be turned in on Fridays.
- Raise your hand to leave your desk for any reason (e.g., sharpen pencil) or to ask a question.
- If a student needs to leave the classroom for any reason (e.g., restroom), s/he must have a hall pass before leaving the classroom.
- Homework is to be placed in the homework drawer at the beginning of class. Homework not submitted at the beginning of class will be marked late.
- **Dismissal:** When the classroom is in order and all students are in their seats, Mr. Atkinson will dismiss you to leave – not the bell.

**MAKE-UP WORK/LATE WORK** – To receive credit for missed work due to an absence, a student must turn in assignments upon returning to school within the number of days missed plus one day except as noted under the Consequences section of the Disciplinary Policy. However, any assignment that has a previously determined due date must be observed unless arrangements have been made with the assigning teacher. Homework submitted the day after it was due will earn (at most) 60% of the overall grade. Homework submitted two or more days after the due date will not be accepted. Information on homework and testing will be on my teacher connection website and will also be posted in Google Classroom.

**HOMEWORK PASSES** – Students will have opportunities to earn Homework Passes periodically throughout the year (e.g., earning a 100% on a unit test). **Students who earn homework passes may use them on pre-approved assignments only.** If a student wants to use a homework pass, s/he must get approval from Mr. Atkinson before the assignment's due date.

**ENRICHMENT ASSIGNMENTS** – Students can complete online Enrichment Assignments using the resources in the Online Textbook. These Enrichment Assignments provide students with additional insight into the course content as well as provide them with additional opportunities to maintain their grade throughout the year. If a student's grade is a D/F, then s/he will be required to complete these Enrichment Assignments.

**CLASS PROJECTS** – Each quarter, students will complete a project focusing on the material that we cover during the quarter. Special supplies may be needed for the completion of these projects (e.g., markers, posters, jump drives, etc.). All required materials for these projects, the project objectives, and the project due date will be posted on my teacher connection website throughout the quarter.

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM** - Most homework and classwork will be placed in Google Classroom. If a student is absent, then s/he can locate the work that was missed by looking at Google Classroom. Please keep in mind that Google Classroom is an extension of the classroom. Anything posted in Google Classroom will be treated as though it were stated openly during class. Parents should use the Teacher Connection page to view assignment due dates; however, any parent who is interested in learning more about accessing Google Classroom should contact Mr. Atkinson.

## **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

**Syllabus for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History**

2019-2020

Teacher: Mr. Atkinson

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE BY MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019\*\*\*\*\***

I have read this syllabus and the 2019-2020 Classroom Behavior Management Plan. I understand the expectations communicated and the consequences that will be applied if I choose to fail to follow them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class Period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Printed Name

In order to make communication between home and school as smooth as possible, please provide both your email and telephone information below, and then indicate your preferred method of contact.

\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian Telephone Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **I prefer an email**

\_\_\_ **I prefer a phone call, and the best time to reach me is** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Either method is fine,** and I have provided the information for both above

*(Return this page only)*