



"If the lessons of history teach us anything, it is that nobody learns the lessons that history teaches us.."

--Anonymous

8th Grade U.S. History 2018-2019 Mr. Russell

Instructor: Chad Russell e-mail: Chad_Russell@dpsk12.org (720) 424- 1700

Office: 132 Classroom: 131

*Office hours are after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2:55-3:20),
Fridays (7:30-8:00) or by appointment. Please email for an appointment.*

CLASS CONTENT:

This class is an exploration into the birth and development of America and how it has developed and impacted your life today. The class will begin with a look at Colonial America and the events that lead to revolution and independence from England. Students will examine the United States Constitution and the major debates that helped to shape the young Republic. Students will study Westward Expansion and the affects it had on Native Americans, the land, and other nations. We will look at the causes and main events that lead to the American Civil War. Finally students will be asked to study the major concepts of Democracy, American geography, and finance.

GOALS:

By the end of the school year I would like for you to have...

- Developed a better understanding of the past.
- Become more proficient at using higher order thinking skills.
- To improve your ability to digest and interpret content rich texts using analysis and critical thinking.
- To be able to come to your own historical conclusions based upon facts from both primary and secondary source materials.
- Improve your factual writing skills.
- Improve your peer relationships into a collaborative team.
- Continue to develop discussion and oral communication skills.

Note about Classwork and Homework Expectations:

You should expect homework in this class. Homework will often be reading and notes to prepare for class discussion and activities. At times, work might be in the form of writing, studying, and/or preparation for a project/presentation.

Main Class Textbook:

American History, Beginnings through Reconstruction. By Davidson and Stoff. Pearson Publishing Co., 2017.

Supplied in class – Please cover textbook

Primary and Secondary Sources:

Mr. Russell will provide electronic and hard copies of many primary and secondary sources relevant to classroom presentations, discussions, and writings. These will be handed out in class and/or posted on my website found at: <https://russell-dsa.com/>

Materials List:

MANDATORY:

- **Paper/Notebook and writing utensils everyday**
- **Large spiral notebook for notes and writing**

RECOMMENDED:

- **Three ring binder to organize class materials**
- **Dividers for three ring binder**
- **One box of colored pencils**
- **Sticky notes**
- **5 100 count 3x5 index cards**
- **Highlighter**

OPTIONAL (And Very Appreciated)

- **One ream of paper OR one box of Kleenex**
- **Markers or dry erase markers for classroom use**

Grading and Attendance:

The semester grade will be determined by a continuous accumulation of scores over the 18 -week semester (there will also be progress grades for each 9 weeks), but the semester grade will be the accumulation of work done all semester. Student grades are based on accuracy, completion, rigor, and presentation quality of all work.

Grading Scale:

A	B	C	D	F
90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	0-59

Assignments will be given point values based on the time required and expectations of the assignment. Work must be turned in on time. **LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR UP TO 50% CREDIT UNTIL THE END OF THE QUARTER IN WHICH THE WORK WAS ASSIGNED. LARGER ASSIGNMENTS (PAPERS, PROJECTS...) WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE UP TO FOUR DAYS WITH A 10% PENALTY PER DAY. AFTER FOUR DAYS IT CAN BE TURNED IN FOR UP TO 60% CREDIT UNTIL THE END OF THE QUARTER IN WHICH THE WORK WAS ASSIGNED.** After the late deadline cutoff, I am happy to accept and comment on work, but it will not count as a grade for the course.

The grading of assignments will be made up as follows: 10% of the semester grade will be the final exam and final project. 35% will be process grades such as homework, classwork, quizzes, short writings, exit tickets etc. 55% will be product grades such as Projects, Major Papers, Tests/Exams.

Makeup work from excused absences must be completed within 48 hours of your return to school. It is YOUR responsibility to find out what work you missed if you were absent. You can find this information out on my class website or coming in to see me. Makeup work will NOT be accepted for unexcused absences.

*****COMMUNICATE WITH ME AHEAD OF TIME IF YOU NEED HELP OR MORE TIME TO GET SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS OR PROJECTS FINISHED. I am happy to negotiate due dates ahead of time, as long as it is not a regular occurrence.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT GRADING!

It is important to me that your written work is given the consideration it deserves. Please be patient with me, I want to be able to read and think about what you have to say- not just skim!

Also – Keep all your work. This is why a three ring binder would be a good suggestion. It is important to keep work and notes for possible grade issues but more importantly to go back and refer/review as we move through class.

Progress Monitoring:

- Grades in Infinite Campus will be updated once a week (usually on Friday or Monday). Longer papers will take a bit longer to update.
- Every week, IC Messenger will send notices regarding failing *assignments* and missing assignments. Failure notices are for *assignments* that earned a failing grade (less than 59%). To verify a student's class *grade*, you will need to check IC in more detail.

Homework:

As previously stated, homework should be expected – mostly in the form of reading and note taking to prepare for class. Much of the time, students will have some class time to read and/or digest some of the work, but it will be continued outside of class. Homework might also be in the form of paper writing, studying, and completion of projects. These are all extensions of class work and are assigned with the expectation that it extends learning independently for students.

Keys to Success:

- Treat others as you like to be treated.
- Take risks in your learning – don't be afraid of the "right" versus "wrong" answer...
- Respect all opinions and be open to be challenged and debate in a respectful manner.
- Keep work in a well-organized notebook or other organization method
- Be on-time, prepared, and ready to work.
- Challenge yourself, maintain high standards, and don't forget to have fun!
- Take advantage of opportunities to redo work for mastery of the content and skills of the course.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is a cornerstone of this class. Cheating, including plagiarism is **never** acceptable. Presenting someone else's work as your own, whether the work is from a friend, the Internet, a parent, etc., is cheating. Please review citation formats. If you choose to cheat on an assignment, test, or quiz, you will earn no credit for the assignment, test, or quiz. In addition, a referral will be sent to the Student Advisor.

Absences:

Please review DSA's attendance policies and other procedures in the student planner. Due to the nature of the program, it is helpful for the student to be in attendance in each class every day.

Assignments:

WRITING: Units include short and longer writing work from informative to argumentative writing. Longer writing will generally be planned and the rough draft created in class to get the most help possible. Writing will vary based on the unit of study – but will often include documents to use as evidence.

TESTS/QUIZZES: Students will take quizzes once every 1-2 weeks. These quizzes will be over the chapters in the textbook. Students will read the chapter and then take a quiz over the content from that chapter. Students will be required to take Cornell no technology notes and create note cards from their reading to practice this important and useful study skill. These notes and notecards will be due the day of the quiz. Students will be allowed to replace some credit on quizzes one time for replacement credit. If students choose to use replacement credit, they should be prepared to show and discuss notes for possible revision to note taking strategies.

Students will also take unit tests. These tests will be scheduled at least a week in advance. I will provide study aids for these tests – there will generally be a product/writing associated with the end of the unit exam.

OTHER WRITING: Students will complete creative writing and short constructed writing throughout the course. The use of creative writing often allows students to work on historical point of view analysis using a more creative approach.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES: Throughout the year, students will take part in a variety of projects and activities such as: simulations, Socratic seminars, small research projects and reports, jigsaw teaching activities, artifact finding/posting, and a variety of short class activities. Many of these will include work on collaboration – but some will assess students' individual learning.

Classroom Expectations:

- Food and Drink are not allowed in class. Water is just fine.
- Please refrain from negative talk and profanity – respect yourself and your peers.
- No use of any electronic devices in class (including cell phones) unless given direct permission by the teacher.

Basic Course Outline:

First Semester -

- Pre-Unit: Why we study history**
Basic Economics/Personal
Financial Literacy
- Unit 1: The Revolutionary Era**
Early American History/Legends
Pre-Colonial American History
Colonial History
Causes of the Revolutionary War
The revolutionary War
- Unit 2: Constitutional Era/Early Republic**
The Constitution
Early Republic
- Unit 3: Expanding the Nation**
The America Presidents
Jacksonian America
Expansion/Manifest Destiny

Second Semester –

- Unit 4: The Economy and Social Movements
before the Civil War**
Slavery
Causes of the Civil War
- Unit 5: Sectionalism and The Civil War**
Battles, Policy, Debates, and Effects
- Unit 6: Reconstruction Era**
Rebuilding a nation

Possible Extra Unit: Colorado History

****Note: This schedule is tentative and is meant as a guide. Changes will be made as the year progresses****

-----**CUT HERE TO RETURN**-----

Your signature indicates that you have read the syllabus, understand the expectations and conditions of the course, and your student understands the expectations of class throughout the year. Please email with any questions.

Student Name
(Printed): _____

Parent Name
(Printed): _____

Parent
Signature: _____

Thank you -- I look forward to a great year! Please return this form signed on or before Friday August 31, 2018 for process points