

8th Grade
American History
Syllabus
 Saint Mark Lutheran School

Introduction

Welcome to 8th Grade American History! In this course, YOU will be challenged to

- ★ Learn from our country's past
- ★ Be an ambassador for good

I am here to support you in any way I can. My hope is that you will gain a bigger sense of patriotism and understand the powerful role you play as an American.

Together, we are Americans but YOU are the future of this country!

Course Description

This course will focus on the entire span of American history. You will examine the major events, wars, movements and people that have helped shape what the United States is today. This course is aligned with the Hawaii Core Standards for Eighth Grade Social Studies (HCSSS).

Our main course textbook is Pearson Education: American History. This course will focus on the following topics and its subchapters. Within each topic and its respective subchapters, you will participate in a wide variety of activities such as: active note-taking, hands-on projects, virtual field trips, challenging discussions and debates and analytical writing, to name a few. Current events will also be intertwined within the curriculum along with a quarterly project.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Topic 1: The Early Americas (Prehistory-1550) Topic 2: European Colonization (1550-1750) Topic 3: Revolutionary War (1750-1783) Topic 4: Constitution (1776)	Topic 5: Early Republic (1789-1825) Topic 6: Westward Expansion (1824-1860) Topic 7: Pre-Civil War (1820-1860) Topic 8: The Civil War (1820-1865) Topic 9: Reconstruction (1865-1877)	Topic 10: Industrial and Economic Growth (1865-1914) Topic 11: Progressive Era (1865-1920) Topic 12: World War I (1853-1919) Topic 13: Prosperity and Depression (1919-1939)	Topic 14: World War II (1935-1945) Topic 15: Post war and Civil Rights (1945-1975) Topic 16: Global Superpower (1975-2000) Topic 17: New Challenges (1975-Present)

Materials

Please note that students may need additional materials throughout the school year (such as for in-class projects) However, if there is a need for additional materials a notice will be sent out ahead of time. Basic materials for this course are listed below:

- Pearson Education: American History textbook (please bring to class daily)
- American History notebook for notes (will stay in class)
- Mechanical and/or sharpened #2 pencils
- Highlighter (any color)
- Colored pencils and/or different colored ballpoint/gel pens (optional, but highly recommended)
- Glue stick, glue bottle or transparent scotch tape (optional, but highly recommended)

Behavior and Conduct

Behavior and conduct expectations for this course can be summed up in two words: **Respect** and **Effort**
 Show respect for your teachers, peers, the school and yourself. Give your best effort in all that you do. If you do these two things you will be on your way to success in my class (and in life!)

Consequences as well as incentives for behavior will be handled according to the Saint Mark Middle School Ready to Learn (RTL) plan.

Please also refer to the Parent/Student handbook for general rules and regulations regarding conduct and behavior as well as proper wear for school uniforms.

Grading

Each activity that is assigned is graded on a 100 point scale. However, each activity is also weighted differently. The weighted breakdown is as follows:

➤ Homework 10% (Chapter worksheets or packets and any unfinished work as necessary)	➤ Class Projects and Presentations 15% (individual hands-on activities and small group collaboration and presentations)
➤ Doodle Notes 15% (Whole group instruction/lecture notes)	➤ Writing 15% (Analytical Writing, Big History Project, Current Events)
➤ Quizzes 15% (open note assessments; consists of paper/pen quizzes and/or practical application)	➤ Unit Assessments 15% (closed note assessments; consists of paper/pen assessments and/or practical application)
➤ Final Quarter Project 15% (one major individual project per quarter)	

For example, an 80% on the quarter project will have a greater effect on your final grade than a 100% on your doodle notes.

Monitor your grades on Gradelink as it will be updated weekly. If you feel there is an error with your grades, I encourage you to advocate for yourself and come talk to me.

Homework and Classwork

Homework will be given Monday–Thursday. Late homework will only be accepted in the event of an absence or of a prior arrangement with me. No exceptions.

All other late work will be given a ten point deduction every day it is not turned in. Extensions can be granted with no penalty, however, it is your responsibility to make prior arrangements with me.

It is also your responsibility to collect and complete any missed assignments during your absence. Please ask for any clarification or assistance if you need help with them.

Aside from the daily homework, no other work from class will be allowed to be taken home. This includes all projects. All projects will be completed in class.

Quizzes and Assessments

You will do a test review in class as well as be given a study guide to complete prior to any quizzes or assessments. It is your responsibility to complete the study guide to the best of your ability and schedule a time for assistance, if needed. Please try to be in class during test review days as there is no way to make up a review day.

You may use the study guide and/or notes for quizzes but not for unit assessments, unless otherwise noted.

Test corrections on the original assessment will be allowed for any one that would like to improve their grade. However, you will be required to provide an analytical reflection on your assessment. There are no retakes of any assessments. No exceptions.

Extra Credit

Extra credit work will not be assigned for this course so it is imperative that you turn in all assigned work on time and to the best of your ability. No exceptions.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the accidental or willful use of someone else's words, ideas, or evidence without proper citation. No more than 15% of your paper shall be cited. All formal writing papers/essays will be scanned for plagiarism.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying or having someone copy work that is meant to be done individually (to include tests, projects, papers, homework, etc). "lending" your notes to a student during a quiz/test. Giving or asking for answers during a test.

These actions are unacceptable and will result in automatic failure of the respective assignment and your parents will be notified.

Film Viewing

Watching films or excerpts/clips of films in class can be a powerful instructional tool . During this course we may watch a wide variety of documentaries, TED talks, historical films, and Youtube videos, to name a few. A permission slip will **NOT** be sent home to your parents for content rated G or PG. Please let me know if you or your parents have any concerns about this.



Contact Mrs. Mac

Email: mmcmillian@smls-hawaii.org

School Phone: 808-247-5589