

8th Grade United States History Syllabus

Brazos Middle School

2020-2021 School Year



Instructor Information:

Name	Contact	Conference Period
Mr. Andrew Hughes, M. Ed.	ahughes@brazosisd.net	3 rd Period 9:40-10:25 am

Contacting Mr. Hughes:

Students: I am available before school, at lunch, and after school.

Parents: The best way to reach me is by email. Please give me 24 hours to respond to email inquiries. I am more than happy to meet with you face-to-face as well. My conference period, before school, and after school are all available for meeting periods.

General Information:

Description

This course examines the history of the United States beginning with colonization and continuing through The Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will learn that the history of the US is really a series of events that center on conflict and compromise. Emphasis will be placed on cause-and-effect scenarios as they relate to the social and political growth of the nation. Students can expect plenty of reading, lectures, and relevant supplemental assignments to engage them in the learning process.

Required Materials

Pens/Pencils: Only black or blue ink pens are acceptable.

Map Pencils

One composition book or notebook: Students will use these to take daily notes in class.

1-2" 3 Ring Binder

Set of Dividers

Course Overview

FIRST SEMESTER

1st Six Weeks: Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3

Unit 1: Exploration and Colonization

Unit 2: Celebrate Freedom Week

Unit 3: American Revolution

2nd Six Weeks: Unit 4, Unit 5

Unit 4: Writing the Constitution

Unit 5: More Perfect Union

3rd Six Weeks: Unit 6, Unit 7

Unit 6: Early Republic

Unit 7: Age of Jackson

SECOND SEMESTER

4th Six Weeks: Unit 8, Unit 9

Unit 8: Manifest Destiny

Unit 9: Industrialization: North and South Economies

5th Six Weeks: Unit 10, Unit 11

Unit 10: Reform and Culture

Unit 11: Sectionalism and Civil War

6th Six Weeks: Unit 12, Unit 13

Unit 12: Reconstruction

Unit 13: Rights and Responsibilities

Expectations and Policies

There are three classroom policies for this course. These are generic in nature on purpose. Most student behavior/misbehavior is encompassed within these three rules. Please understand that policy infractions and consequences are subject to teacher discretion.

1. **Respect:** Student shows respect to her/his fellow classmates and to the teacher.
2. **Responsibility:** Student is responsible for her/his work and behavior.
3. **Ready:** Student will be in class on time, with the proper materials, and a positive attitude towards learning.

Grading Policies

Brazos Middle School Grading Policy is as follows:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

69 and below = F

Grade Calculation in US History

There are three categories of assignments in this class. Daily Work, Projects/Presentations, Exams

Daily Work: Each assignment will be calculated once.

These types of assignments may include daily work in class, homework, vocabulary quizzes given online, and collaborative work given in class. Other types of daily work will be given throughout the year.

Projects/Presentations: Each assignment will be calculated once.

Most projects assigned will be completed in class in a collaborative environment.

Presentations consist of memorizing and presenting, in class, several assigned speeches, pledges, or famous documents from American History. Some examples include The Pledge of Allegiance, Patrick Henry's Liberty or Death speech, and the Preamble to the Constitution. There will be at least one presentation assignment per six-week period and a rubric will be provided for each presentation assigned.

Exams: Each exam will be calculated twice.

Late Work Policy

Late work will only be accepted per the guidelines of the Student Handbook.

Exam improvement opportunities will be given to each student. Students will have the opportunity to earn ½ of the deduced points on any given exam. Please see the Student Handbook for further information on exam improvement policies and procedures.

Absent Work: It is imperative that students be in school. A student returning from an absence should see Mr. Hughes before school, the day after she/he is out, to receive any assignments missed. Students will have one day, per each day she/he was out, to make up any missed work. After that, work will be considered late.

Signature Page

Please go over the syllabus with your child, sign and return. **This signature page will be due 08/21/2020 for a daily/homework grade.** This syllabus will also be posted on the teacher website, accessible through the BMS website. Your child will be responsible for all information documented on this syllabus, as we will go over it in class. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Hughes.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Person to Contact: Please provide the information for the person you would like Mr. Hughes to contact in regard to your students' performance in class.

Name of Person

Relationship to Student

Email of Contact

Phone Number of Contact