

United States History: Growth and Conflict



Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to 8th grade **United States History: Growth and Conflict!**

This course examines United States history and geography concentrating on the growth of the United States during the period of colonization through the Age of Industrialization. The course begins with an intensive investigation and review of the major ideas, issues, and events preceding the founding of the nation. The course then concentrates on the shaping of the Constitution and the nature of the government that it created. The development of unique regions in the West, Northeast, and the South and the causes and consequences of the Civil War, is covered in depth. The course studies the movement of people into and within the United States, the experiences of diverse groups (women, racial, religious, ethnic, and economic classes) and their contributions to the evolving American identity. The course also connects historical issues to current affairs in order to develop a greater understanding of the basic institutions and policies of the nation.

In our class, you will be an active participant experiencing history through dynamic group activities, individual reflection, dramatic role-playing, and writing from a historical perspective. We will analyze and think critically, read primary and secondary sources, form diverse opinions, have Socratic discussions, watch documentaries, and

utilize many resources and artifacts. We will write journals, paragraphs, essays, letters, and create exciting and fun-filled projects.

ABOUT ME

I am from Denver, Colorado, and first came to California in 1994 to attend college at the University of California, Berkeley (Go Bears!) This will be my thirteenth year in total teaching. I love my job because I get to work with wonderful students like you! 😊

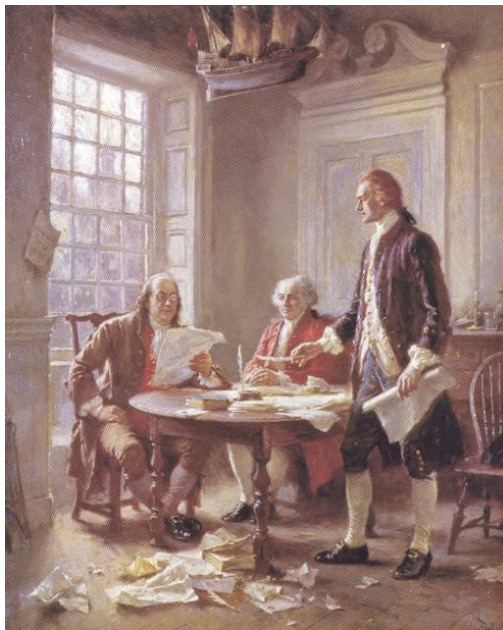
My background also includes working in government and politics, as well as the private and nonprofit sectors. I have a master's degree in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Though I spent many years in school, there are a special few teachers who made a significant difference in my life and inspired in me a love for learning. My goal is to help you have a great year of learning and exploration! Students, please don't forget to come to me for help when you need it! Also, don't forget to utilize your Study Buddies! Parents, throughout the year, please feel free to contact me for any reason. I will always work hard to respond promptly to you!

EXPECTATIONS

I expect you to arrive on time and be in your assigned seat, fully prepared with writing materials, colored pencils, journal, organized binder and homework by the tardy bell. If you do not have the proper materials, points will be deducted and this will affect your overall grade. I also expect you to follow "The U House Way", like no cell phones on or out during the school day, and being kind to others.

It is very important to complete all your work. It is also your responsibility to copy homework assignments in an agenda planner on a daily basis. The weekly homework assignment and projects will also be available online at www.lacesmagnetschool.org. Thank you for reading over this syllabus. Feel free to email me at cxv2311@lausd.net or call the school at **(323) 549-5900** if you ever need to reach me.

Very Sincerely,
Ms. Cecily Vizas



I. Outline of Curriculum, Standards covered

- 8.1 Founding of the Nation
- 8.2 The Constitution
- 8.3 Foundations of Our Political System
- 8.4 Aspirations and Ideals
- 8.5 Early U.S. Foreign Policy
- 8.6-8.8 Divergent paths of the Northeast, South, and West
- 8.9 Slavery
- 8.10 Civil War
- 8.11 Reconstruction
- 8.12 Industrial Revolution

II. Skills Emphasized

- a. Geography (physical and political)
- b. Interpretation of maps and graphs
- c. Utilizing critical thinking skills to understand and compare diverse cultures
- d. Analyzing and evaluating reading and source materials
- e. Note-taking, outlining, essay writing
- f. Research skills
- g. Use of primary and secondary sources
- h. Working in both groups and individually
- i. Debating and speaking skills
- j. Interpreting history through student developed poems, skits, and performances
- k. Comparing and evaluating artistic styles and periods
- l. Current events--the newspaper as a tool of the social sciences



United States History: Growth and Conflict Guidelines 2014-2015

PROCEDURES

1. When you enter this classroom, enter quietly and take your seat. You should be ready and working by the bell. *If you are not in your seat preparing for class by the bell, you are tardy.*
2. Copy the day's homework in your agenda.
3. Look to the board to see the daily agenda and the daily warm-up assignment for you to begin work on.
4. Work quietly and do your best with the warm-up.
5. If you miss a day, it is up to you to make sure that you catch up. Ask your "Study Buddies", your classmates, and/or me for help at an *appropriate* time.
6. Class will be dismissed when the teacher dismisses it.

REWARDS FOR FOLLOWING RULES

- A positive learning environment
- Praise on a daily basis
- Positive notes/phone calls home
- A good citizenship grade
- Whole class rewards

IF YOU CHOOSE TO BREAK A RULE

- **First offense:** Warning (verbal and/or visual)
- **Second offense:** Time out/mini-conference
- **If the problem continues:** I will make a phone call home and you will attend a 15-minute nutrition or lunchtime discipline conference. You will spend extra time with me and together we will find a way to help you succeed.
- **Discipline Referral:** The Discipline Dean will be contacted and he or she will determine appropriate consequences.

ACADEMIC GRADES

IN THIS CLASSROOM, THE TEACHER DOES NOT *GIVE* YOU YOUR GRADE. YOU *EARN* YOUR POINTS BY WORKING HARD, STAYING FOCUSED, BEING ORGANIZED AND MAKING SURE THAT YOU'VE COMPLETED EACH

ASSIGNMENT/TASK. IF YOU DO THIS AND ASK FOR HELP **WHENEVER** YOU NEED IT, YOU WILL BE VERY SUCCESSFUL! ☺

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN: 90-100% = A, 80-89.9% = B, 70-79.9% = C, 60-69.9% = D, and 59.9% or below = F.

PARTICIPATION and CITIZENSHIP (COOPERATION GRADE)

This grade is based on the following factors:

- Does the student contribute to class discussions? (Even the shyest student can be an active listener, which is a great contribution!)
- Does he/she listen quietly while others are speaking?
- Is the student prepared daily with the required materials?
- Does the student do their best when working in small groups?
- Does the student follow the class rules?

ABSENCES

Students are responsible for making up homework and class work when they are absent. They must check for the weekly study guide and/or talk to a study buddy immediately following an absence. Students have two full days for each excused absence to complete and turn in missed work. If a student misses a test or quiz, he/she must schedule an appointment with the teacher to make it up.

Study Buddies: Always ask three, and then me! Write down the names and numbers of three people in the class who you can call on when you need help or have a question. Call one of them when you are absent, but please don't call or text too late in the evening!

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

LATE WORK

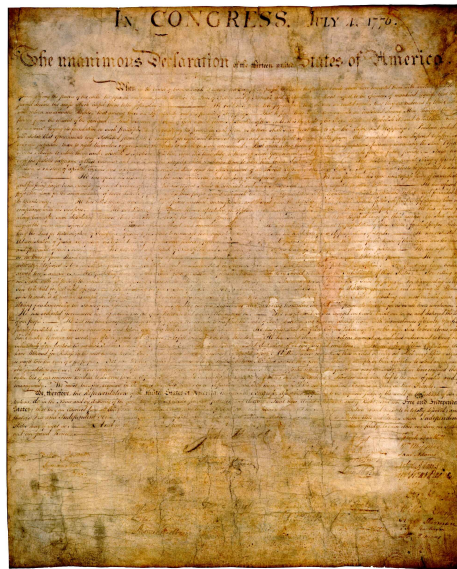
Late work will be penalized and you will not be able to earn full credit. To minimize points lost, you need to make up the missing homework as soon as possible, meaning that you will have only one week to turn in homework assignments for half credit.

I have high expectations for all of the students in my class, but with your hard work and my help I know you will be successful! I am excited to be working with you this year!



DON'T STRESS OUT!

Please feel free to come see me at nutrition, lunch, homeroom, or after school if you are confused or need more time or help. Usually I am in my room, so all you have to do is drop by. Remember, no question is too small. I am here to help you! ☺



ASSIGNMENTS

Classwork: This year we will be covering a lot of curriculum, so it is important that students come prepared and ready to do their best each and every day. This is an exciting, but fast paced curriculum! 😊

Homework: Homework assignments are due *at the beginning of the class period* to the **In Box** assigned to your class period (located in the front of the classroom.) If you forgot your homework in class and turn it in later in the day, it will be considered late and you will receive partial credit. If you are absent, then any missing assignments can be turned in when you return to school. Also, if you are absent for a test, you are expected to make up the test when you return to school.

Homework Assignments: There is homework each week. Homework helps students focus on key concepts and ideas, and includes:

1. Weekly Study Guides for each chapter: Study guides include content vocabulary, “Essential Questions”, and a timeline. *Study Guides are due by the last day of class each week.* Study Guides will be handed out in class *and* posted on the school website each week. **You will be given 3 bathroom passes each semester, If you turn all 3 bathroom passes (all three must be unused) in before the end of the semester, you will earn a free homework pass.**
2. Class Reading Notes *Class assignments become homework if you do not complete the assigned work in class or are absent.*

Tests: There will sometimes be **weekly Chapter or Unit tests**, which you will be alerted to in advance. Quizzes may happen without notice.

Projects: Throughout the year, students will have projects assigned. The first will focus on Islam. These projects will be discussed and the requirements handed out in class and posted on the website.

Extra Credit: There will be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

Tips to help you succeed in History:

1. Study for chapter tests by
 - a. Reading, and rereading the chapter over
 - b. Making outlines or flashcards of the chapter,
 - c. Review your Chapter Reading Notes and Study Guides
2. Keep your binder organized



Period _____

Contract for United States History 8 2014-2015

Please detach this page from the classroom guidelines once it is signed. Return the contract to Ms. Vizas and store the class guidelines in your binder.

For Students:

I _____ (print student name) have read the attached requirements for United States History 8. I accept all responsibilities for this class and *I will do my very best to succeed.*

One of my goals this year in History is to _____

Signature of student: _____

Date: _____

For Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for reading over these guidelines with your student. Feel free to email me at cxv2311@lausd.net or call the school at (323) 549-5900 if you ever need to reach me. Please sign below so that I know you have received this information.

Parent/ Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Signature of Parent/ Guardian: _____

Home phone #: _____

Work/alternate phone: _____

Any comments or notes for Ms. Vizas (feel free to use the back of this page):
