

Woodlands Middle School

8th Grade Social Studies – Reconstruction to the 21st Century

Ms. Browne

Course Description:

This American History course is a survey of American history beginning in the 1865 with Reconstruction and will end with an examination of current events in the 21st century. This course is designed to help students understand how and why particular events and patterns of events occurred in our society. This survey course will enable students to understand the geographic, political and economic developments that affect events, both past and present.

Unit 1: Civil War Review & Reconstruction

Unit 2: Migration & Industrialization

Unit 3: Modern American Emerges

Unit 4: The 1920's and the Great Depression

Unit 5: World War II and its Aftermath

Unit 6: The 60s

Unit 7: Modern History

Course Expectations:

Students in this American History class are expected to develop writing skills, to keep up with reading assignments, and to begin the process of historical analysis critical to understanding and interpreting the past. Students are expected to come to class prepared and to complete assignments on time.

Textbooks and Materials:

Textbook: *The Americans*

Textbooks will be assigned to students.

Students will need:

A Social Studies Notebook

A folder for handouts

Something to write with.

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Grading Policy:

Homework: 20%

Classwork: 30%

Tests & Quizzes: 30%

Performance Tasks: 20%

- DBQ Essays
- Projects

Assessments

Formal-reading quizzes, vocabulary quizzes, essays, projects, presentations

Informal- small and large group activities, class discussion, daily writing, participation,

- Many major assessments and essays will be done electronically.

Essays:

- DBQ Essay
- Thematic Essay

Essays will be scored based on analysis, range of evidence provided, thesis statement, structure, language use, and conventions. All essays will have a rubric specifically designed to the task and will be provided to students in advance.

Social Studies Portfolio

- Students will be responsible for keeping all rough and final copies, including anything with teacher and/or peer notes, of major writing assignments.
- Students will keep a Social Studies portfolio to show that they have grown as historians throughout the year
- The portfolio will also contain other major assessments that the students will take over the course of the year.

Course Policies:

Student Work: Students will be expected to complete assignments outside of class time on a regular basis. All students are expected to read class material, think critically and write effectively. Students are expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar and correct spelling in every written performance.

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Group Activities: You will be working in groups on a regular basis. Your group will be given cooperative learning activities to complete. You will be expected to be an active member of your group and participation points will be assessed accordingly. You will always be graded as an individual; however your group may earn points together that will lead to a reward.

Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit will be offered from time to time. Extra credit is extra work above and beyond the usual homework, not work used to cover up missing work.

Absences: If a student is absent, it is HIS/HER responsibility to get all late work from the teacher and return it in a timely manner.

Class Rules:

- Be respectful
- Be Prepared
- Be on Task
- Be Cooperative
- Be Responsible
- No Gum/Candy/Food
- No Drinks except Water.

Statement for Academic Dishonesty:

Academic honesty is expected in this class. Cheating will not be tolerated. Consequences may include: reduction in grade on assignment, repeat assignment, no grade on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

I have read and understand the rules for Ms. Browne's History class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address: _____ and/or _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

