



Class Disclosure Statement

Course Title: U.S. History

Instructor: Mr. Whitesides

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Introduction: It is an honor to be your teacher. I look forward to making this our most rewarding year ever. You will be expected to participate, be on time, be prepared, and be an active contributing student of the class. **We expect assignments to be completed and done to the best of each student's ability while at the same time challenging you to improve each day.**

U.S. History Course Description: 8th grade U.S. History covers events and issues from the time periods of the first Americans through the post-Civil War Reconstruction era. Topics will include pre-Columbian America, exploration, colonization, the Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation-building, western migration and expansion, the Civil War, and reconstruction. We will also study the role of geography in shaping historical events and the relationships between events of different time periods including today. The main goal of this class is to understand and analyze the events in the history of the United States and then evaluate their effects on us today.

Supplies for class:

- Just bring something to write with.
- We will occasionally be doing projects in which colored pencils and markers will be used. These supplies are provided in my class, however, due to large classroom sizes, students will have to share. So having your own set might make this a little easier.

Grades Scale:

A	93-100 (Mastery)	C	73-76 (Partial mastery)
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86 (Proficient)	D	63-66 (Minimal mastery)
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 or below

Electronics in Classroom: The goal of our classrooms is to allow students to receive the best education possible without any distractions or disruptions. Electronics such as cell phones and headphones are not permitted during class instruction and activities. However, there will be appropriate times when we will allow the use of such devices to aid the student in their achievement. We will highlight to the class when such a time is appropriate.

Be on time for class: You are expected to be in your seat to be ready for work when the bell rings. Those who are not in their seats will be marked as tardy.

Students are expected to follow directions when they are given:

- 1. You are expected to sit in assigned seats.**
- 2. Raise your hand to speak or participate in classroom discussions.**
- 3. Be respectful of others.**
- 4. No talking while the teacher or student(s) have the floor.**

Hall passes: Hall passes are permitted on our new Smartpass system, which will be discussed on the first day. In short, please prepare before coming to class so that the hall pass is a once-in-a-while need and not a daily activity/distraction.

Coursework: All classwork will be done in class using both traditional paper assignments and technology. There will be at least one test per unit. All tests will be taken online on Canvas. Retakes are possible, but PLEASE make an appointment with me prior to retakes.

Teamwork: Students will have the opportunity to work in teams. Many assignments will be completed individually. Some assignments will be completed as a team. Please do all you can to help build your team by becoming a true team player.

Homework: Our classes do not require homework as time will be given in class to complete the assigned tasks. However, if the student does not make proper use of the time or is absent, then those tasks will become homework.