

# AMERICAN HISTORY CLASS SYLLABUS

## Grade 8

*Fall 2018-Spring 2019*

*'We are not makers of history. We are made by history.'*  
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Instructor: Mr. Zindman  
Office Hours: Scheduled by appointment  
Phone: (631) 870-0525  
Class Web Page [www.mrzindman.com](http://www.mrzindman.com)  
E-mail [steve.zindman@wufsd.net](mailto:steve.zindman@wufsd.net)

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

The eighth grade will study the time period from the Civil War to present day.

### **RATIONALE**

My history class is designed to explore American History by using computers and technology in the classroom. In class I stress the reasons why events in history happened and the important results of these events. I believe that in order for students to learn, they must want to learn. I try to accomplish this goal by making history interesting and relevant with the use class lectures and computer based activities. I try to demonstrate to them that in order to do well in the present, we need to understand the past and how it affects our daily lives. I also stress how present day events will affect their future lives your child in my class this school year.

### **STUDENT SKILL OBJECTIVES**

- \* To develop skills in taking verbal and written notes.
- \* To increase their critical thinking skills.
- \* To develop skills in taking part in class discussions.
- \* To gain skills in extracting main ideas from reading and computer web based assignments.
- \* To learn how to analyze trends and evaluate information.
- \* To develop skills needed for good study habits.
- \* To develop skills in cooperative learning.
- \* To improve their skills with using computers and the internet.
- \* To prepare for the midterm and final examination in social studies.

## SUPPLY LIST

Here is a list of supplies required for my class:

- \* A 2-inch three ring binder filled with loose leaf paper Label the binder with your son/daughter's name and subjects (ELA and Social Studies)
- \* 1 pack of section dividers to be used for Social Studies and ELA.
- \* 1 zippered pencil case that fits into the three ring binder
- \* 1 pack of 6 pens and 1 zippered 3 ring pencil case.

## TEXTBOOK

*America, History of Our Nation*, by Prentice Hall, 2000.

A chrome book will be utilized by the student. The chrome book or computer must be kept in class at all times.

Numerous additional facts, informative stories, videos, and ditto sheets will supplement the textbook.

## CLASS RULES

Each student receives a complete listing of the school rules in their agenda book. My individual class rules are as follows:

- \* To attend class on a daily basis on time
- \* Come to class prepared with a notebook, class notes, and pen
- \* To behave in a socially appropriate manner
- \* To participate in class and do their personal best
- \* To sit in an assigned seat
- \* To complete all class and homework assignments
- \* To prepare for examinations
- \* Please remember, cell phones or electronic devices are not permitted in class

***Failure to come to class prepared on a daily basis and behaving appropriately will result in a parental contact!***

These rules will be posted in the class and on our class blackboard.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

*The grading system will be explained to your son/daughter in class. The quarter class grades will be determined using the following formula:*

Class Notes:	30%
Class Exams:	60%
Homework:	10%
Quarter Grade	100%

## **TESTS**

Each student will be given a pretest during the second week of school to determine their baseline knowledge of American History. At the end of the school term they will take a Final exam to determine how much they have learned during the course of the school year.

A class test schedule will be posted in class by the instructor. Testing study guides are available on my web page at [www.mrzindman.com](http://www.mrzindman.com) .

I encourage you to make flash cards to assist in your studying. If you want to create flash cards on line a flash card creation program is located on at [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) .

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework for each Unit is handed out at the start of each chapter, unless the school printer delays the printing. If a delay in printing occurs the students will be notified.

These assignments are from the American Nation textbook and are aligned with the new common core curriculum.

Each student will be given one paper copy of the homework assignments. Please be advised that due to district paper shortages a second copy can only be handed out if paper is available from the school. A copy of the homework assignments is always available at [www.mrzindman.com](http://www.mrzindman.com) or Google Classroom It can be viewed and printed from these sites at home.

The due date for each assignment will be posted on the homework assignment board in class. Students will be expected to record the assignments in their agenda book and turn the assignments on the scheduled due dates without exceptions.

## Reference Information

Enclosed is important information needed to complete all written assignments for U.S. History.



### R.A.F.F.T. Writing Strategy

(A writing format)

#### Paragraph 1

##### **R= Reinstate the question**

- In your own words, rewrite the question.
- State your thesis\*.

#### Paragraph 2

##### **A= Answer the question**

- Provide the answer to your thesis\* statement.
- Provide details explaining your thesis\*.

#### Paragraph 3

##### **F= For Example**

- Provide supporting evidence from the text, to support your thesis\* statement.
- Provide examples to support your text evidence.

#### Paragraph 4

##### **F= For Example**

- Provide supporting evidence from the text, to support your thesis\* statement.
- Provide examples to support your text evidence.

#### Paragraph 5

##### **T= Tie it Up**

- Write a conclusion supporting your thesis\* from paragraph 1.

\*Thesis: A statement supported by arguments.

## Transition Words and Phrases:

Include transition words in your writing assignments. Here are some examples of transitional words.

Transition Words and Phrases			
Agreement / Addition / Similarity	in the first place	again	moreover
	not only ... but also	to	as well as
	as a matter of fact	and	together with
	in like manner	also	of course
	in addition	then	likewise
	coupled with	equally	comparatively
	in the same fashion / way	identically	correspondingly
	first, second, third	uniquely	similarly
	in the light of	like	furthermore
	not to mention	as	additionally
	to say nothing of	too	
	equally important		
by the same token			
Conclusion / Summary / Restatement	as can be seen	after all	overall
	generally speaking	in fact	ordinarily
	in the final analysis	in summary	usually
	all things considered	in conclusion	by and large
	as shown above	in short	to sum up
	in the long run	in brief	on the whole
	given these points	in essence	in any event
	as has been noted	to summarize	in either case
	in a word	on balance	all in all
	for the most part	altogether	

**MILTON L. OLIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
140 GARDEN CITY AVENUE  
WYANDANCH, NY 11798**

**TEXTBOOK RECEIPT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Textbook: America, History of Our Nation, 2000

Textbook Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: 100.00

Textbook Condition: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Issuing Textbook: Mr. Zindman

To the Student:

I agree that I must return this textbook in the same condition it was issued to me. This textbook will be kept at home for homework and study. I understand that I am being held responsible for this book and that I will return this book to my teacher in June. I agree that if I do not return this textbook, my parent/guardian and I will be responsible to pay the cost of \$100.00 to replace the textbook.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Initials \_\_\_\_\_, 09/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Upon Return - \_\_\_\_\_, date \_\_\_\_\_