

# AMERICAN HISTORY CLASS

## SYLLABUS Grade 8

*Fall 2020-Spring 2021*

*'We are not makers of history. We are made by history.'*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Instructor: Mr. Zindman  
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### **COURSE OUTLINE**

The eight grade covers a time span from Reconstruction in America after the Civil War up until today.

### **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 (Modified due to Covid-19)

Here is a list of supplies required for my Social Studies and ELA classes:

**\*a charged chromebook every day!** If you forget your chromebook you will complete all class assignments using a pen and paper. Keep your chromebook and charger with you at all times in your backpack.

**\*a set of headphones to plug into your chromebook.**

## TEXTBOOK

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

A chrome book will be utilized by the student.

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

## CLASS RULES

- \* To attend class on a daily basis on time
- \* ***Come to class prepared with a charged chromebook.***
- \* 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 to be used during class time.

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

## **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 Activities:	50%
Class Exams:	30%
Homework:	20%
Quarter Grade	100%

## **TESTS**

Each student will be given chapter tests. Midway in the term they will take a Midterm examination and 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.

Examinations will be announced by the instructor and posted on Google classroom. 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 posted on Google Classroom. These assignments are from the American Nation textbook and are aligned with the new common core curriculum. Each student must turn in their assignments digitally on line in Google Classroom.

The student will receive acknowledgment of the completion of assignments and test grading on Google Classroom.

## Reference Information

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



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

#### Paragraph 1

##### **R= Reinstatement 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 and/or evidence.

## 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	