

Eighth Grade Social Studies

Mrs. Chumbayeva

Course Goals:

- ★ Improve and expand your knowledge of American history from the earliest European colonies through Reconstruction.
- ★ Develop critical skills such as reading comprehension, analytical writing, researching, public speaking, and historical thinking.

Textbook:

Creating America: Beginnings through Reconstruction

**Note- The textbook will be offered by request only. Class copies of the text remain in the classroom for use as needed.*

Course Outline:

- ★ The Constitution
- ★ Colonization of North America
- ★ American Beginnings
- ★ The American Revolution
- ★ The War of Independence
- ★ American Slavery
- ★ The Early Republic
- ★ Beginnings of Westward Expansion
- ★ The Industrial Revolution
- ★ The Age of Jackson
- ★ Manifest Destiny & Reform Movements
- ★ The Civil War
- ★ Reconstruction

Grading:

Students will be graded based on a point system, with each assignment being worth a certain amount of points. Be sure to check the point values of assignments against the score received.

Typical point values for various assignments are as follows:

- ★ Projects: 50-100 points
- ★ Essays/Formal Writing: 40-100 points
- ★ Daily classwork: 5-15 points
- ★ Quizzes/assessments: 10-50 points
- ★ Late submissions on projects and essays will result in a **ten percent reduction** per school day.
- ★ Make-up quizzes/assessments may be different from the original.
- ★ Extra-credit opportunities are not offered as per the Social Studies department.

Homework & Daily Preparation for Class: Coming to class prepared with the homework complete (when it is assigned) and with the required materials is important for daily participation. Each student will start every marking period with a 25-point preparation assignment which is worth a quiz grade. A missed/entirely incomplete homework is worth up to 5 points deducted from the average. An incomplete or partially complete homework is a 2-3 point deduction. Coming to class without materials communicated in advance is a 1-3 point deduction. When homework is assigned, it will be posted in two places: the Homework Board in the classroom, and the daily Google Classroom posts. It is the responsibility of students to check both places daily to know what is expected for each class meeting.

Assignment Submission:

- ★ Assignments submitted to Google Classroom in the incorrect location are considered late.
- ★ If, for any reason, a student is unable to submit an assignment in a timely manner, they must inform me via email PRIOR to the submission date and time.
- ★ Digital submissions that are not submitted to the proper digital location (FlipGrid, EdPuzzle, etc.) are considered late.

Group Work:

In any group work assignment, if a student feels that the work distribution or output is not equitable or fair, then they must inform me PRIOR to the due date.

Participation:

Your positive, active participation is expected. Students are expected to contribute in class discussions and effectively participate in class activities. This also includes active listening and engaging with others.

Reading checks:

*In order to succeed in any Social Studies course, **consistent** and **focused** completion of reading assignments as they are assigned is essential. Students are responsible for all information covered in reading assignments and should note that not all information in the reading is covered in class time. Class time is used to **elaborate** and **expand** upon major themes and ideas covered in the readings and also to **deepen** and **ensure** student understanding. Browsing online resources or using another student's notes is **not** a pathway to success in this class.*

Students should be aware that all reading assignments are subject to a reading check. Reading checks require students to exhibit mastery of the assignment by demonstrating **higher order thinking skills** and the ability to **make connections** between the reading and **broader**, and/or **contemporary** topics and themes.

Google Classroom & EdPuzzle:

- ★ Class materials such as this syllabus, assignment sheets/rubrics and other resources will be posted in Google Classroom.
- ★ Daily classwork assignments will be posted on Google Classroom.
- ★ Videos and other multimedia assigned for homework will be accessed through EdPuzzle.

PowerSchool

- ★ Grades are posted to PowerSchool.
- ★ Missing/late assignments are marked with a **zero** until handed in.
- ★ Graded quizzes and tests will be returned with the understanding that students will keep them to study for other assessments.

Availability:

If you have any questions, need help with an assignment, need to make up classroom assignments and/or quizzes, I will be available to you on the following days:

Day 2, 3, 4: Lunch 1/EP1

Absence:

- ★ Excused absences:
 - Students are responsible for making up missed work;
 - Students are expected to make up missed work, including tests and quizzes. **The number of days students have to make up work is equal to the number of days they were absent.** For example: If you were absent for 2 days, you will have 2 days after returning to school to turn in your work.
 - Students that are late to school or class must see me during an afternoon session to make up work that was missed.
 - Exceptions will be made in the event of an extended illness or other extenuating circumstances that arise.

In the case of an unexcused absence (cutting class):

Students who cut class receive no credit for the day and receive a zero on missed work, including tests and quizzes.

Email/Contact:

- ★ Email me at ychumbayeva@bhpsnj.org with any class-related questions you might have. I do my best to respond to emails as promptly as possible.
- ★ Emails written to me must contain the subject which includes your block, salutation (greeting), specific details regarding your concern/question, and a closing. Emails must follow basic email etiquette.
- ★ In the event that you have any questions outside of school or class hours, you are encouraged to email me. Be advised, however, that I may not be able to respond to an email if it is received after 6:00 p.m. on a school night.

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

- ★ All classmates and teaching/school staff deserve common courtesy and respect at all times.
- ★ Under no circumstances are cell phones and wireless headphones allowed in class.
- ★ Students must bring with them to class the following daily: their charged Chromebook, notes, and a writing utensil.
- ★ All assignments and classwork are completed with full academic integrity as outlined below.
- ★ In the event that there is a substitute teacher, students are expected to behave as if I am present.

Behavioral Consequences: When students choose to not follow classroom rules and expectations, there are instances when further action must be taken.

- ★ 1st offense - Warning
- ★ 2nd offense - Warning
- ★ 3rd offense - Warning with parental contact
- ★ 4th Offense - Extra Assignment or Lunch Detention with Parental contact
- ★ 5th Offense - Lunch Detention with parental contact and meeting
- ★ 6th Offense - After School Detention with parental contact and meeting.
- ★ Offense beyond will be recommended to administration.

Covid Protocol (this could change)

- ★ Masks are required at all times.
- ★ Drinking and eating are prohibited.
- ★ If you need to remove your mask for any reason (blow your nose, etc.) please step out of the classroom or see the nurse.

Chromebook Usage:

Students are expected to bring in their Chromebooks to class, charged, on a daily basis. Not having your Chromebook is to be unprepared for the day. Not having the ability to charge a low battery is also considered being unprepared for the day. Student use of Chromebooks in the classroom is restricted to topics and materials that correspond with the day's lesson. Students who are off-topic with their Chromebook risk negatively impacting their grade for the assignment and potentially face disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity:

- ★ Cheating, copying, plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without citation), falsifying data, and other unauthorized use of materials is dishonest and will not be tolerated.
- ★ Any major assignment, quiz or test you turn in must contain the following statement handwritten and signed by you at the top of the first page before it can be accepted or graded:

"On my honor I certify that this assignment is my own work and that I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this [test, exam, paper]."

- ★ Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment.
- ★ Instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Assistant Principal.

Closing:

Welcome to 8th Grade, and to my class. You are indeed reading the welcome note at the *end* of the syllabus. You will soon learn that I enjoy mixing things up in class. It took me some time to realize that it is okay (and fun) to be unconventional sometimes. History has had a reputation for being dry and impersonal compared to other subjects, but hopefully, the journey we are about to embark on together will help you see this subject from a different lens. Having perspective is, after all, a building block of historical thinking. I wish you a successful academic year where you can award yourself the chance to make friends, memories, and even a few mistakes that allow you to learn and grow. Lastly, I hope you end this year realizing that we are connected to history and we *are all* part of the history of tomorrow. So live each day thinking about the mark you will leave on this school, your community, and all who have the pleasure of knowing you.

“History has its eyes on you.” -*Hamilton: An American Musical*