

8th Grade US History

Course Overview and Syllabus

Washington Latin PCS
2016-2017 Academic Year

Mr. Peter Timothy Anderson
panderson@latinpcs.org

Welcome to Washington Latin's 8th grade US History course! Throughout the year, we will be delving into two questions in depth. First, whose story is being told in this class? Second, what does it mean to be American? Both of these questions address the theme of power, which will be the lens through which we explore this material.

To do this, we will work to analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources and will participate in simulations that will utilize many fields within the social sciences, including geography, political science and economics. We will be studying this history using an integrated approach, so be prepared to use content and skills from your other classes. Special focus will be placed on thinking critically, articulating viewpoints supported with evidence, and appreciating value systems different from our own.

Curriculum:

To learn all of US History would be impossible; Professional historians are still working on this. There will be certain gaps in this course and some material will be left out on purpose so we can focus on specific ideas and themes. Below is a rough outline for the year, but we may need to adjust as we get into the material.

- First Quarter: Colonialism
- Second Quarter: Revolution and Westward Expansion
- Third Quarter: Civil War and Reconstruction
- Fourth Quarter: Industrialization

Texts:

You will receive a numbered copy of "America: History of Our Nation" to take home. We also have a classroom set so you do not have to carry your text book back and forth. However, you are responsible for returning **the numbered text you received at the start of the year to me during reading week or final exam period**. If your number is not returned, you will be billed to replace the book (\$100). It is unwise to keep your book in a shared locker, on a random bookshelf, or in your Advisory as another student could pick it up to use.

In addition to this textbook, we will look at information from a variety of other sources. All hard copy readings will be posted digitally and on-line readings will have a link on the class weebly.

Grading:

Each marking period, your grade will be calculated using the following weights:

10% - Class Participation	30% - Open Note Pop Quizzes
30% - Homework	30% - Tests/Projects/Papers

All assignments are due at the start of class, unless otherwise specified. If an assignment is not complete at the start of class, it will receive a late penalty. **Extensions are not granted on the day an assignment is due.** Email me if you are unable to complete an assignment as soon as you are concerned. It is better to come up with a backup plan in advance that we do not need to use. As an 8th grader, I expect that you are a responsible student who is learning to advocate for yourself. As a result, I should hear from you if you are concerned or confused about an assignment.

Open Note Pop Quizzes:

About every week and a half to two weeks there will be a 20-minute, unannounced, open note pop quiz. On this quiz, you may use **anything in your red history binder** to help you. It will be most helpful if this binder is organized chronologically, with the oldest information in the front and the newest information in the back. Open note pop quizzes will also help you study for the final exam.

Participation Points

Your weekly participation points are determined by your presence in class, physical and mental. If you are absent, you cannot receive participation points for the day because you cannot participate in the lesson. When you are absent, you lose instruction and we lose your contribution to class. If you have an excused absence, you can earn up to 4 of the 5 daily participation points by meeting with me to discuss the missed content. You should focus on making up the *material*, not just the *work*.

You earn participation points by being an active participant in class; tracking the speaker, taking notes, completing class activities including the daily Do Now, and being prepared with your binder, writing implement, and plan book out at the start

of class. Participation requires being on time and **IN DRESS CODE**. Students not in dress code will be required to leave the classroom.

Policies and Expectations:

Homework

Homework is due at the start of class and will be checked while you are doing the Do Now. Homework that is collected is worth 10 points. Homework that is checked for completion is worth 5 points. Whether homework will be collected will typically not be announced. Homework that is illegible, crumpled or torn, or shows lack of understanding will lose value.

Unless otherwise announced, homework will be accepted late within 5 days of the due date with a 10% late penalty for each day it is late. Homework turned in after this point will be awarded no more than half credit. Remember that some credit is better than none!

*** This classroom policy is different from the standard Washington Latin Public Charter School blanket policy because of the nature of the skills we are developing and the content we are covering in this course specifically. Please understand that the standard no homework, no credit policy will still be in place in other classes. ***

Binder

You must have a red three-ringed binder with filler paper that you bring to **every** history class. This will allow you to keep homework, notes, and readings organized by topic. If you come to class unprepared, you will need to take notes on a piece of loose leaf paper, **NOT** in a binder or notebook for another subject, that can be added to your binder. If you have tabs, they should be used to separate units, NOT type of assignment.

Email

Email is the best way to reach me. However, **I will only respond to email that include the following criteria:**

- An opening salutation and closing;**
- Sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation and;**
- A subject line that includes the phrase "U.S. History"**

When you email me with a question or a concern, you will know that it was received because I will respond. Please remember to check for a response. I often will ask follow up questions to ensure that I am correctly understanding your question or to guide you to the best response.

Attendance

You are responsible for **any class work** and homework assigned during a class from which you were absent. I encourage you to let me know in advance of any planned absences, so that I can get the work to you ahead of time to prevent double duty (make up work during ongoing work).

Independent Reading:

You will be expected to read at least one book each quarter, related to each of the major units being studied that quarter. In each instance, you will have the opportunity to choose from a selection of books. Note that these books will likely need to be read, most often, during Study Hall or outside of school.

Final Exam:

There is a final exam in US History that will cover our course material for the year. There will be study guides provided, but **KEEP** your notes and assessments to prepare because the study guides will not re-teach you the material. The week before exams will be a "reading period" used to review. However, you will still need to study outside of this time. The final exam is worth 20% of your grade for the year.

Honors History:

You must receive a B+ or higher in this course AND must have my recommendation to be **eligible** for placement in Honors History. Being eligible does not guarantee placement. Your answer to the question "Why do you want to take Honors World I?" will be a significant factor in my consideration of any student for Honors History.

High School Recommendations:

If you are considering attending high school elsewhere and would like a recommendation from me, you must **provide sufficient notice** (10 business days), and provide a **self-addressed, self-stamped envelope** for me to send recommendation to the school directly. Be sure that you fill out all parts of the recommendation that need to be completed by a student or guardian first. **You**, the student, should ask me in person to complete a recommendation. I will not complete recommendations that I find on my desk or in my mail folder, unless you have already asked me to complete one.

US History 8 Syllabus and Course Overview

Mr. Anderson 2016-2017

I, _____, (student's first and last names) understand the policies and expectations for Mr. Anderson's U.S, History class. Mr. Anderson (or Ms. Coppola-Klein, the other 8th grade U.S. History teacher) has reviewed this packet in class and has answered questions about these policies and expectations. I have written any additional questions under the signatures below.

I know that it is my responsibility to ask for clarification of these policies and expectations. I know I can get clarification from either Mr. Anderson or Ms. Coppola-Klein, either by email or I can make arrangements to see one or the other during tutorial, break, or recess. In extraordinary situations, I may be able to see Mr. Anderson before school on Mondays or Tuesdays.

By signing, my parent/guardian and I agree that we understand the policies and pledge to abide by all class rules to make the History classroom a safe, respectful, fair, and organized place where everyone can learn.

Student signature Date

Parent/Guardian signature Date

Additional Questions: