8th Grade U.S. History Syllabus



Manson Middle School

**Course Overview**

This class will take a unique look at the history of the United States starting with the Colonial Era, and working our way up to the late-20th century. During the course of the semester, students will learn about past events and peoples, as well as analyzing the causes and effects of historical events. This class will take a close look at both the accomplishments of our great nation, as well as its blunders. The goal of this class is for students to analyze historical events, and formulate their own opinions of the complex and controversial topics. Students will leave this class with a greater understanding of the past and current United States, as well as a sharpened ability to think critically and formulate informed opinions.

**Key Concepts/Subjects Outline**

* The Enlightenment
* American Revolution
* Civil War
* Reconstruction
* American Imperialism

* The World Wars
* The Roaring 20s
* The Great Depression
* The Cold War
* Civil Rights Movement

**Grading – preparation for high school**

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| Tests and Quizzes-  Standards- | 80% |  |
| Organization-  Student Notebook | 10% |  |
| Responsibility-  Leadership and Employability Skills | 10% |  |

**Timeline (subject to change due to trimester schedule)**

Week 1 – Colonies Week 10 – Roaring 20s

Week 2 – American Revolution Week 11 - The Great Depression

Week 3 – Manifest Destiny Week 12 – World War II

Week 4 – Civil War Week 13 – World War II

Week 5 – Civil War and Reconstruction Week 14 – Cold War

Week 6 – Imperialism Week 15 – Cold War & Civil Rights

Week 7 – Progressivism Movement Week 16 – Civil Rights Movement

Week 8 – World War I Week 17 – Vietnam, Nixon, Reagan

**Classroom Expectations**

* I am **prepared**. When class begins please pull out the necessary materials and begin working on the entry task every day.
* I am **respectful** in your attitude and words to your classmates and to Mrs. Johanson. Please also respect the classroom by picking up after yourself. Water is okay.
* I am **responsible** by making good choices in class every day including placing your cell phone away during class time unless used as a tool at times specified by Mrs. Johanson.
  + Away means out of sight and earshot – Mrs. Johanson is picky about this!
  + Mrs. Johanson will be happy to help you practice this responsibility by safely storing your phone in her desk if you choose to not put it away. If this happens more than once, it will go to the office and your parent/guardian is welcome to pick it up at their convenience.

**Restroom/Hallway Pass.** Every student at the start of the trimester will receive 3 hallway passes which they can use at their discretion throughout the trimester. These can be used for the restroom, the water fountain, a mental break or anything else. Students will write their names on the ticket and hand to Mrs. Johanson as they walk quietly out. They can be used at any time **except** during direct instruction or tests. Extra hallway passes at the end of the trimester can be entered into the “Terrific Trimester” drawing.

**Classwork and Late work.** On-time work is necessary for full credit on your responsibility grade. Work between 2 and 5 days late will result in a 20% deduction and any work turned in later can only receive up to 50% credit. Late work will be collected up to 1 week before the end of the trimester.

**End of Class.** Students will be dismissed only by the direction of Mrs. Johanson. “When you are ready to go, please stand behind your pushed in chair”.

**Tardy/Absence Policies**: Two free tardies per trimester without consequence. Every tardy thereafter will result in lunch detention with Mrs. Kronbauer. Students with excused absences will have the same number of days missed to make up their work. Unexcused absentees will be expected to turn things in on time.

**Johanson Contact Information:**

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| Email: [ajohanson@manson.org](mailto:ajohanson@manson.org) | Phone: 509.687.9585 EXT 517 |
| InstaGram: @johanson\_class |  |

**Open Door Policy**

Parents and students are *always* welcome to visit me in my classroom before or after school. If a formal meeting must take place feel free to contact me via email.

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Student Signature Date Parent Signature Date