

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade American History

## Gifted Studies Course Overview

2011-2012 Ms. Skedel

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### Welcome to American History!

This year we will learn about important people, events, and ideas that have shaped the growth and development of our nation. Our journey will take us from the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War up to the present, and we will gain a greater understanding of the rich heritage that is ours as American citizens. The study of current events is an integral part of our course.

*Note: In the "Gifted" Social Studies course, emphasis is placed on the continual development of higher level thinking skills, creativity and problem-solving capabilities.*

### Materials List

Four BLUE Dou-tang folders with pockets	#2 Pencils
Filler paper	Eraser
Pens (BLUE OR BLACK ink)	Colored pencils/crayons
Other material as needed for projects	

### Course Overview

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>First Quarter</u></p> Reconstruction Frontier West (1865 - 1914) Rise of Big Business and Industry	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Third Quarter</u></p> Career Education II The Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age The Great Depression World War II
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Second Quarter</u></p> Immigration Politics and Social reform (1870 - 1914) Overseas Expansion World War I	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fourth Quarter</u></p> The Holocaust/Tolerance The Cold War Era Civil Rights Movement Vietnam War

### Student Evaluation

Tests/Projects 35%  
Quizzes 30%  
Homework and Class Work 30%  
Bellwork (and other miscellaneous) 5%

**Tests and Projects.** Significant weight is placed on student progress as measured by tests and projects. Both individual and team projects will be assigned throughout the year. Group projects promote an understanding of the need to work effectively with others. Your individual contribution to the team, as well as the overall quality of the team project, will be evaluated. Tests will be administered frequently.

**Quizzes.** Quizzes are given substantial weight to evaluate your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and facts, generally covering smaller amounts of material.

**Homework and Class Work.** You are expected to come to class with all necessary materials, and to interact in a positive manner during class activities and discussions. Participation includes satisfactory completion of homework and class work as well as maintaining your history folder as required. Your history folder will be used on a daily basis and is a tool to effectively manage all of your course work. This must be brought to class every day. All your work (homework, class work, handouts, etc.) must be kept in your History Folder.

### Additional Information

- SSA+S has a strict "No tolerance policy regarding cheating". Please refer to your Agenda Book and be aware of the details of this policy.
- You are expected to write all assignments in your Agenda Book.
- Extra credit will be offered only to those that have all assignments turned in on time.
- There will be no late work accepted unless you have spoken to me and circumstances warrant an exception.
- If you are absent, YOU alone are responsible for finding out what was covered in class. Missed assignments because of absence are due the day after your return unless other arrangements are made with me.
- All tests with a grade of "D" or "F" must be signed by your parent/guardian.

Use Edline! Grades are updated at least weekly, if not more often. Please check it frequently.

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### DISCIPLINE PLAN

#### CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Follow classroom procedures at all times. (See "Classroom Procedures")
2. Bring a Positive Learning Attitude (P.L.A.) to class each day.
3. RESPECT! Treat others and school property with respect.
4. Listen and follow directions.

#### SSA+S Classroom Discipline Plan

1. First time: Verbal or Visual (The Look) Warning
2. Second time: Write classroom rules and parent phone notification (document said call with date, time, person contacted)
3. Third time: Behavior essay with or without detention at the discretion of the teacher) with signature from parent or guardian
4. Fourth time: In-school morning detention. School will notify parents by phone that a detention has been issued
5. \*Fifth time: County Referral (one or more days out of school suspension)

#### **Note:**

1. \*Student or parent refusal for student to write classroom rules or behavior essay or refusal to serve a morning detention will be considered a **fifth offense**.
2. **Please note that, at the teacher's discretion, the above plan may be altered to address more serious behavior.**
3. Serious or very disruptive offenses will be cause for immediate removal from class to office for further disciplinary action.

#### BEHAVIOR REWARDS: (Some examples):

1. Praise, compliments, smiles and hugs.
  2. Positive comments to parents.
  3. Student choice in upcoming activities.
  4. Reward or Special Activity Days.
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## CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

*An orderly classroom provides a good learning environment*

### DAILY PROCEDURES

1. Enter the classroom and prepare your desk. (DESK REQUIREMENTS: Textbook, history folder, pen/pencil, Agenda Book-opened to today's date, bellwork).
2. Read the Daily Schedule on the board.
3. Begin Bell Work immediately.
4. Head your papers properly. (Name in upper right-hand corner, date, class period).

### OTHER IMPORTANT PROCEDURES

5. Check Edline OFTEN to get the latest updates on your grades and/or missing assignments.
6. If you've been absent, arrange to get your assignment/s. Hand in make-up work if you have been absent.
7. To leave the classroom: Get teacher permission, fill out your Agenda Book and have it signed by me, and complete the sign out sheet.
8. Always respond immediately to "Give Me Five"!
9. ALL TALKING STOPS DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS.
10. Emergency Codes mean SILENCE! Wait for teacher instruction.
11. Agenda Books must be with you at all times.
12. Pick up after yourself. Leave your work area clean. (Desks and floor are clear).
13. Put away materials that you have borrowed.
14. The teacher dismisses the class.... not the bell! Remain in your seat until dismissed.
15. Always keep in mind that RESPECT is the key word to live by in our classroom. Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect school property.

**It's going to be a Great Year!**



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After you and your parents have read the Course Overview, Classroom Procedures and the Discipline Plan, please detach at the dotted line, sign and return this portion to Ms. Skedel.

I acknowledge that I have read and will abide by the information in the documents listed above.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_