

United States History Syllabus 2008-2009



Mrs. Bruder

Eighth Grade

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Office hours: By appointment at break, lunch or after school

Textbook: *History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism*

A. General Overview

This course will focus on the formative years of the United States including but not limited to its geography, notable individuals and events that helped create the cultural and historical diversity we share today. As we discover our nation's past, students will participate in discussions, readings, note-taking, classroom activities and projects, chapter reviews, quizzes and chapter tests. Students will be expected to complete a final exam or project at the end of each semester. Enrichment materials such as slides, videos, handouts, music and food will be incorporated into the course. All class activities and programs will be tied to the California State Social Studies Standards.

B. Goals of the class

Students will:

- Develop a sense of understanding of the meaning of time and chronology.
- Develop a greater ability for interpreting and researching primary and secondary sources.
- Recognize the value of diverse ethnic groups and the role of women in American history.
- Identify cause and effect during each period of study.
- Evaluate historical concepts and connect them to student's personal family history, as well as to contemporary political and cultural history.

C. General Expectations

1. Classroom Rules

Classroom rules include:

- Be on time or early to class
- Be prepared with supplies, homework and an open mind
- Be friendly and respect others
- Pay attention to speakers
- Take risks and try things that you think might be difficult
- Speak clearly

2. Absences

Students who are absent must make up all work. It is the responsibility of the student to ask a study buddy for any notes taken during her absence and to obtain any missed handouts or assignments. Students will have the same number of days to

complete missed work as they were absent. In the event that a student misses a quiz or exam, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a make-up quiz or test with me upon her return to school.

3. Academic Honesty

When researching and preparing written papers for class, it is important to exercise academic honesty. Whatever you find in books, on the Internet, in magazines, newspapers and whatever else, you must present your findings in your own words. It is plagiarism to copy the words and thoughts of another and claim them as your own. No credit will be given for plagiarized work.

4. Required Materials

Students are required to bring the following to class daily:

- Three-ring binder with loose-leaf college-ruled paper or a spiral notebook
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, colored pencils and an eraser
- Personal, hand-made whiteboard
- *History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism*, the class textbook

D. Homework

Homework will be given on a regular basis and is due at the beginning of class following the day it is assigned unless otherwise stated. Missed homework can be made up with an excused absence. In addition, students will be granted two late homework slips per semester, and may submit up to two late assignments with the homework slip within a week of the original due date to receive full credit. Students who do not use all or some of their homework slips by the end of each semester will receive extra credit. No other late assignments will be accepted. Homework assignments will be posted on the class Web site.

All homework assignments must include the following:

- Heading (Full name, subject, grade, period and date)
- Assignment name and page number when applicable
- Original question re-written when applicable

○	First and last name	Date
	Subject	Period / Grade
	Name of Assignment and page number	

E. Tests and Quizzes

Students will have advanced notification of quizzes and tests, with the exception of pop quizzes. Each graded test must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the teacher. Quiz and test dates will be posted on the class Web site.

F. Grades

Student grades will be determined by attendance, active classroom participation and the completion of homework, projects, quizzes and tests.

The following is the target breakdown based on percentages:

Homework	25%
Participation & Attendance	15%
Projects	5%
Quizzes	20%
Tests	20%
Semester Exams or projects	15%

All percentages are translated to a letter grade according to the following scale:

A 100-93	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D+ 69-67	Fail 59-0
A- 92-90	B 86-83	C 76-73	D 66-63	
	B- 82-80	C- 72-70	D- 62-60	

***** Students will be made aware of any adjustments to this syllabus.**

Dear Students and Parents,

Please sign and return the bottom portion of this page so I know you have received and read the course syllabus. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by email and I will promptly respond.

Thank you,
Mrs. Bruder

8th Grade American History

We have read and understand the course syllabus for 8th grade United States History.

Student's Name

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Student's Signature

Parent's / Guardian's Signature