

8th Grade History Course Syllabus

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to AHS for school year 2005-2006. I'm Mr. C and am looking forward to working with you and having another great year. For this 8th grade American History class you will be in either my first or fourth period class. With our new block schedule, these two classes will meet every other school day on Day 1 or Green Day. This is a survey class and covers the period from the first European settlements to the Civil War, with a quick review of Pre-Columbian civilizations at the beginning.

This can be a fun class with a lot of different activities, which not only helps us learn our American history, but also makes the connection to us today and to our future. We use a lot of different methods of learning including creating videos, newscasts, magazines, exhibits, drama, class presentations, etc. and there are grades for all of them. Many middle school students do have a **major problem** though, and that is that they do not want to read the text assignments, which means they are completely lost when we start class and do these activities or have a quiz or test. There is a chapter packet I've been using to help with this. It consists of either an outline for notes, or a set of chapter worksheets, to be completed while doing the reading and is worth the same amount as the test. Full credit is given for the packet if it is completed. Our new block schedule will also help in this area, only meeting every other day gives you two days to do the reading and three when a weekend is involved.

Generally, there is a test for each chapter or topic. The tests are normally 50 points each and the chapter packets are 50 points each. Section and topic quizzes are twenty points and pop quizzes ten points. Written homework ranges from ten to twenty points. There is a project each semester for 150 points.

Should you have a problem as a student, please let me know immediately and we will work it out. And parents/guardians, it is the same policy, if you have a concern or question, please contact me immediately. My email is **Mr.C@eu.dodea.edu**, my classroom telephone is 268-3412 and my I'm located in Room #5 on the bottom floor.

One final comment on History, DoDDS now participates in the National History Day program which culminates in a week of judging and festivities at the University of Maryland College Park in July each year. This 25-year old program offers a host of cash prizes and scholarships to high school and middle school students. Our first semester project will use the contest format and students may enter their work in our local contest. Rules, formats and this year's theme may be reviewed at **www.nationalhistoryday.org**.

Thank-you
Mr. C