

GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE OUTLINE

Mrs. Cecile Mantecón ~ mantecon@stmarygilroy.org

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3~3:30 P.M.

COURSE CONTENT THEME

United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

THEMES OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Democratic Ideals, Citizenship, Impact of the Individual, Diversity and Unity, Immigration and Migration, Expansion, America and the World, Science and Technology, Economics in History

INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS

- A To study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to the Reconstruction.
- B To review the development of America's democratic institutions founded on the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary tradition
- C To trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences.
- D To learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.
- E To make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

STUDENT LEARNING WILL BE ASSESSED USING THE FOLLOWING:

- ♦ Unit projects
- ♦ 'Tuesday News Day' reports
- ♦ Geography quizzes
- ♦ Section quizzes
- ♦ Chapter & Unit tests
- ♦ Notes
- ♦ Relevant contributions to daily discussion

TEXTBOOK: *Creating America: A History of the United States* (McDougall Littell)

OTHER RESOURCES: TCI (Teacher's Curriculum Institute) History Alive!, Junior Scholastic Magazine, www.classzone.org, www.ctnba.org

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

- ♦ Attendance: Daily 9:25-10:40 (9:05-9:45 on 12:30 days)
- ♦ Conduct & Participation: class discussion, homework assignments, being prepared for class (textbooks, supplies, homework), respectful attitude toward other viewpoints
- ♦ Note-taking and Organization: exhibit skills learned from last year's social studies class and show improvement and mastery of skills

HOMEWORK:

- ♦ Homework will be posted on the board daily and is typically due the next school day after it is assigned unless otherwise specified.
- ♦ If work is not turned in the next day, 10% of the grade will be deducted; work will not be accepted past the unit test or progress report/report card grading period.
- ♦ School homework policy is strictly enforced.
- ♦ As part of home study, students are expected to keep abreast of current events especially those that could potentially have a lasting effect on this nation's history. (See 'Tuesday News Days')

'TUESDAY NEWS DAYS'

This weekly current events homework requires the student to seek out news stories from the previous week that could potentially have a lasting effect on this nation's history. For example, a small town robbery may not in itself have this effect, but a news story about an increase in robberies due to the economic down turn might be. A report on Sunday night's game between the A's and the Giants may not be a candidate for a 'Tuesday News Day' story, but Barry Bonds' record-breaking hit definitely is one that has historical clout.

Students will write a 7- to 10- sentence broadcast news story as an evening news anchor. The story will have a tag line that will catch the viewer's or listener's interest.

It is to be typewritten using the MLA format with proper citation appearing at the bottom of the piece. (See Mrs. Mantecon if you are not familiar with this format, look through your Write Source book, or visit www.easybib.com.)

On Tuesday in class, you may be selected to read your piece out loud. Late news reports will be treated like any other homework.

Warning: Do not attempt to complete this assignment on the Monday before it is due!

A TRIP TO THE CAPITOL

Our class will take a coach trip to Sacramento to tour the capitol building and hopefully meet with an elected official from our district in March. More information will follow.