

# 8th Grade World History Syllabus

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Class Location: Room 208  
Conference by Appointment

**Class Description:** : 8<sup>th</sup> United States History provides a rigorous, Common-Core, standards-based, social studies curriculum focusing on understanding and citing specific sources, reading, writing, and listening and speaking. Students read primary and secondary sources that fuel class discussions and lead to analytical and expository writing. In our examining the written and spoken word, we focus on how language is used to communicate, inform, and persuade. The class requires students to read mindfully and to write deliberately.

**Learning Targets:** In order to succeed in the class, a student must be able to do the following (handout provided – abbreviations will be used for grading and feedback)

## **Craft and Structure (CS)**

1. Determine the **meaning** of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specifically related to history/social studies.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to **examine** a topic to convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

## **Supporting Details of Key Ideas (SD)**

3. Write arguments to **support claims** with relevant and textual evidence using primary and secondary sources.
4. Identify key steps in a text's **description of a process** related to history/social studies.

## **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas through Reasoning (KR)**

5. Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps), print, and digital texts to **write/discuss arguments to support claims with clear reasons**.
6. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and **organize the reasons and evidence logically** (distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text).

## **Readings:**

### **Primary Textbook**



*Creating America: Beginnings through World War I* (class set provided so there is no need to bring the textbook to school)

**Primary Sources** will be provided by your teacher

## **Come Prepared**

1. a two pocket folder to organize class materials and paper for notes/writing
2. pen, pencil, highlighter
3. Post-its for annotating
4. text and materials we are working on that particular day

## **Academic Integrity:**

Trust between student and teacher is vital for students to learn. Teachers need to know what a student is capable of doing, and students need this information if they are to improve. Plagiarism is copying what someone else has written or taking someone's idea and passing it off as your own. **Re-wording without a citation is plagiarizing.** Cheating includes copying homework/classwork, an exam, or using someone else's idea as your own without citing the source. If you have doubts about whether or not you're plagiarizing, cite your source. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will receive a zero on the assignment and cannot make-up the assignment.

# Requirements & Expectations



## Rules are minimal:

- 1.** Come to class prepared and willing to learn.
- 2.** Treat everyone as you wish to be treated: with decency and understanding. How you speak is a reflection on yourself.
- 3.** Do not do work for another class in this class.
- 4.** Tardiness is a distraction to everyone. If you are tardy three times, you will receive a "U" in work habits.
- 5.** Only bottled water is allowed in class (no gum or food).
- 6.** Finally, students are dismissed by the teacher and not the bell. Do not pack up your belongings until you are dismissed.

**It is your responsibility to find out what you missed when you are absent.** I post assignments and have copies of all handouts on my website ([anreedms.org](http://anreedms.org)), but also check with a friend to make sure you understand what happened in class. I cannot go over an entire lesson you missed, so develop relationships with classmates and exchange contact information.

**Assignments must be turned in on time.** Assignments **will not be accepted** after the third day past the due date (outside of cleared absences from the Student Services Office). Please remind me when turning in late work if you have an excused absence... I am only human. Late work will be marked down 1 mark (i.e. 4 to a 3).

## Mastery Learning and Grades (for additional information see "Learning Targets for Social Studies," "Rubric for Learning Targets for Social Studies," and "Mastery Grading Scale")

Mastery Grading is a system of grading students based on their demonstrated level of mastery of skills and concepts. This is a shift away from giving grades based on effort, attitude, and work habits -- all important life skills, but not an indication of whether the student can comprehend a difficult text or produce work demonstrating understanding. Homework does not factor into the final grade. Homework is assigned as practice and for feedback. Instead, students earn grades based on their ability to master grade-level Common Core State Standards and California History/Social Science Content Standards. All work is graded on a scale of 1 to 4 (see rubric).

Students will be given clear feedback on how to improve performance and be provided multiple opportunities to demonstrate knowledge (**rewrites can be complete during each grading period**). Rewrites will be submitted during break or lunch. Rubrics, checklists, and scoring guides will be aligned to the course's learning targets so students can know what they have mastered and what they still need to learn in order to succeed in the class. As always, attendance, work habits, and cooperation will be reported separately from the academic grade.

"A," student has earned a **4** in at least **4/6** learning targets and has **not** earned anything lower than a 3 in any single learning target. "B," student has earned at least a **3** in at least **4/6** learning targets and has **not** earned anything lower than a 2 in any single learning target. "C," student has earned at least a **2** in all 6 learning targets. "D," student has earned at least a **1** in all 6 learning targets. "F," student has not yet earned a 1 in all 6 learning targets. If all six learning targets are not addressed in a given semester/grading period then targets will be adjusted proportionately.

All grades will be reported on Schoology so parents and students can track their progress toward mastery (Schoology is linked on my class website. Ultimately the goal of mastery grading is to see students take ownership of their learning and reach their full potential.



Thank you for reviewing and undertaking these important rules, procedures, and guidelines. A copy of this syllabus is on my class website ([anreedms.org](http://anreedms.org)). There are also instructions to sign up for the LAUSD Parent Portal on the website which links to Schoology. I send all updates/notices through Schoology. Your signature and that of your parent/guardian confirms our common understanding, and mutual agreement.

Student Signature (print name above signature)

Parent Signature