

HISTORY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES HISTORY – 8TH GRADE
MS. FERRELL, MS. MORSE, MRS. LITTLE
ATASCADERO MIDDLE SCHOOL

2017-2018 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description- Welcome! As your child's social studies teacher, I want to let you know a little about the exciting historical adventure your son/daughter is about to embark upon. Students in this year long course will examine the major turning points in the shaping of our nation from its formation until the Industrial Revolution. Students will understand the emergence of different cultures, traditions, and values within our nation as well as the United State's role as a part of the world. Emphasis on history, critical thinking, geography, and current events, with evidence of mastery of skills, will be stressed.

Course Requirements-

Standards of Behavior

1. Be prepared daily with interactive notebook, pens, pencils, 2 different colored highlighters, colored pencils, tape, etc.
2. Be on task, productive, and courteous.
3. Respect the rights of others. This includes no foul, derogatory, or bigoted language of any kind.
4. Keep the classroom neat, clean, and safe. Food and drink (except water) is prohibited as per school policy.
5. Follow all school rules and policies. The school tardy policy is strictly enforced using the Atascadero Discipline Program.
6. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones, I-pods, etc. is only allowed to be used in class **upon teacher's approval**.

Standards of Performance – 10 Steps for Student Success

1. **ATTENDANCE** is essential! While some make-up work will be allowed, that responsibility falls upon the student to complete. It is **the student's responsibility** to collect work missed from an absence **outside** of class time. Class calendars can be found on teacher websites.
2. **MISSING ASSIGNMENTS** - Missed tests and quizzes must be made-up within one week of the assigned date, unless other arrangements with the teacher have been made in advance. It is **the student's responsibility** to arrange for make-up exams.
3. **LATE WORK – EVERY assignment MUST BE TURNED IN – EVEN IF IT IS LATE!** Assignments submitted late will be subject to a reduced percentage, up to 50% of the original value. **ALL WORK FOR EACH CHAPTER MUST BE TURNED IN BY THE CHAPTER TEST DATE!!!**
4. **CHEATING** - Assignments are given, in part, to evaluate knowledge, skills, and abilities. Students must submit their own work. Academic integrity is crucial and School Board policy will be strictly enforced.

Students found **cheating** in any of the manners described above will be counseled and will require the following corrective measures:

- (a) having to resubmit the completed assignment
 - (b) having a required conference with the teacher and an administrator. Should a second infraction occur, the student will be subject to additional disciplinary measures taken by the school's administration.
5. **P.O.P. (Participation, Organization, Preparedness)**, is crucial to the success of the class. Active and engaged participation (answering questions, asking questions, remaining on-task and alert) will account for 5% of the **semester grade**. Actively participating in simulations and in-class activities counts toward P.O.P. points.
 6. **QUIZZES** and **UNIT EXAMS** are another large part of the course. They will make up a total of 45% of the **semester grade**. It is vitally important that students are engaged in class, complete and study the coursework, and utilize the study skills and strategies they learn in class in order to do well on the exams.
 7. **INTERACTIVE PACKETS** are also essential to doing well in this course. For each chapter or unit, students will receive a customized collection of assignments that they will use daily. These will be collected and graded on test days and will make up 25% of the **semester grade**.
 8. **GROUP PROJECTS AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS** not assigned in the interactive packets will account for 15% of the **overall course grade**. These may include group video projects, DBQ Essays, partner or individual projects, etc.

9. **CURRENT EVENTS:** In order to learn current events and connect them with historical studies, you will examine recent world and national news through a writing assignment. Current Event articles and forms will be due once per Progress Report (four times per semester). Current Events will be weighted as **10%** of the overall **course semester grade**.

10. **GRADES** are calculated on a cumulative point system for each semester as follows:

A = 90-100%	ASSESSMENTS	= 45%
B = 80-89%	COURSEWORK	= 25%
C = 70-79%	PROJECTS	= 15%
D = 60-69%	CURRENT EVENTS	= 10%
Fail = 59% and below	P.O.P.	= 5%

- Grades may be viewed and verified online for accuracy through **AERIES** (<https://atascaderousd.asp.aeries.net/Student/>).

Parents and students are encouraged to check grades and missing assignments often.

- Students and parents are also encouraged to check assignments through the HW Link online at the AMS website (<https://sites.google.com/a/atasusd.org/ajhsferrellhistory/>)

Textbooks: *Holt* : United States History, Independence to 1914

Unit Themes:

SEMESTER ONE:

- The Colonial & Revolutionary Era
- A Constitution for the United States
- Launching the New Nation

SEMESTER TWO:

- The Age of Jackson & Westward Expansion
- A Divided Nation: (North & South)
- The Civil War
- The Reconstruction Era & Industrialization

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES HISTORY – 8TH GRADE
MS. FERRELL, MS. MORSE, MRS. LITTLE
2017-2018 COURSE SYLLABUS

STUDENT NAME: _____

Student and Parent Signatures- I have read and understand the policies and procedures of the 8th grade U.S. History course and have discussed them with my son/daughter as they pertain to this class.

signature of **parent**

date

signature of **student**

date

Questions??? Please feel free to contact us via E-mail: karaferrell@atasusd.org christylittle@atasusd.org
katmorse@atasusd.org

2017 - 2018 COURSE TECHNOLOGY SYLLABUS

With the push towards 21st Century learning and an emphasis on technology in the classroom, your students may be exposed to a variety of educational tools this year in their 8th grade History class. Here are some of the learning tools we may be utilizing this year to enhance your child's educational experience:

- **Remind** – A safe and free way for teachers to text message students and stay in touch with parents. <https://www.remind.com/>
- **Socrative** – A fun and interactive way to assess student learning through real-time question and response format. <http://www.socrative.com/index.php>
- **Edmodo** – A social network that provides a safe and easy way for your child's class to connect and collaborate, share content, access homework, etc. <https://www.edmodo.com/>
- **Chromebooks Educational Apps** – A variety of apps available through Chromebooks that enhance student learning that will be used during class time.
- **Google Apps for Education** – This includes Google Docs, Google Forms, Google Presentation, Google Classroom, etc.
- **Video Projects** – There will be several group projects throughout the year to supplement our History curriculum that will require the use of technology for responsible filming and editing purposes. Students will then upload projects to Google Drive to share with Ms. Ferrell, Mrs. Little, or Ms. Morse
- **Smart Phones, iPods, Tablets, etc.** – For research, classwork, and project purposes at teacher's discretion

Questions??? Please feel free to contact us via E-mail:

karaferrell@atasusd.org
chritylittle@atasusd.org
katmorse@atasusd.org