

American History Grade 8 Course Syllabus
Mrs. Diane Westbrook

This American History course is an academic, yearlong course with a focus on the birth of our country and its rise to greatness. In addition to their textbook, students will be engaged through a variety of sources that include: primary and secondary source documents, maps, videos, debates, lectures, computer-technology assignments, role playing and a variety of projects.

The important part of learning is to discuss the various aspects of any given topic. Class discussions are an open forum for students to express their views in an environment of tolerance and understanding. It is expected that all students come to class with open minds, listening to others opinions and respecting those opinions. In addition, we seek to improve writing skills, speaking and critical and analytical skills.

Required materials;

- . US History textbook
- . Three ring binder as well as dividers and notebook paper
- . Class handouts that will provide enrichment, KWL and graphic organizers, study guides, movie and powerpoint presentations.

The Honor Code will be strictly enforced in this class. Students who plagiarize, or cheat on assignments will receive NO CREDIT for that particular assignment, quiz or exam. Offending students will also be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Kenilworth Board of Education policy.

My policy concerning assignments : I will not accept any late assignments such as classwork or homework. This is a learning exercise meant to teach responsibility and organization. Other assignments such as projects or written essays of different value will have the following policy. There will be a ten point deduction per day up until three days after the due date. No work will be accepted after three days late and the assignment will then become a 0.

Course Grading:

50% Tests and Projects

25% Class participation ,Homework, and Current Evnts

25% Quizzes and Notebooks (checked unannounced)

Focus:

The First Americans

Exploring the Americas

Colonial America

Growth of the Thirteen Colonies

The Declaration of Independence

The American Revolution

The Consitution: A More Perfect Union

The Federalist Era

The Jefferson Era

Growth and Expansion

The Jackson Era

Manifest Destiny

The Age of Reform

Towards Civil War

Current Events