

**Individuals and Societies – MYP Year 3
Course Syllabus for Grade 8
United States History**

Contact info for: Melissa Muntz
mmuntz@sjusd.org
408 535 6267 x51111
Room C-2

Course Overview

Throughout the eighth grade *United States History and Geography* course, students will confront the themes of freedom, equality, and liberty and their changing meaning over time. This course will also explore geography. We will explore the differences between colonial ways of life, westward expansion of the USA, economic development, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

As students learn American history from the 1600s through the nineteenth century, they will develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills that will enhance their understanding of the content. As in earlier grades, students will be taught history as an investigative discipline, one that is continually reshaped based on primary-source research and on new perspectives that can be uncovered. Students will read multiple primary and secondary documents; understand multiple perspectives; learn about how some things change over time and others tend not to; and through this, they should appreciate that each historical era has its own context and it is up to the student of history to make sense of the past on these terms and by asking questions about it.

Major Units of Study		
1. Historical and Analytical Tools	5. The Seven Years' War, and American Identity	9. Westward Expansion
2. European Empires in America (grade 7 review)	6. Revolution	10. War between US and Mexico
3. Indigenous People and Geography	7. Constitution	11. U.S. Civil War
4. British Colonies in America	8. The Early Republic, Slavery and Industry	12. Reconstruction
		13. Immigration

IB Humanities Program

The aim of the International Baccalaureate program is to develop internationally minded people who help create a more peaceful world. Throughout this course, we will explore primary sources, films, and literature that enable us to engage more deeply with the historical narrative. The study of History in this course we will make global connections via the IB themes: Identities and Relationships, Orientation in Space and Time, Scientific and Technical Innovation, Fairness and Development, Globalization and Sustainability, Personal and Cultural Expression

Homework

Homework is assigned daily in this class. Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. Reading assignments will either be in the textbook or on a paper provided by the teacher. The primary text used in this class is *Creating America*, published by McDougal Little, and all other resources and texts will be handed out in class or should be available for download on Google Classroom. Students should check Google classroom for an extra copy of any assignments they have missed.

All assigned homework must be completed by the due date. Any student who does not complete their homework at home will be expected to stay after class (during break, lunch, or breakfast) to complete the assignment. If the student cannot or does not stay after class, lunchtime detention may be assigned. Unexcused failure to attend lunch detention may result in Saturday School.

Student Initials _____ *Guardian Initials* _____

Film and Video

In this class we study a variety of human experiences, many of which are easier to understand through the medium of film rather than written texts. While we will likely only watch one of the following films in its entirety (*Glory*), We will watch clips and excerpts from a variety of Feature films in order to understand the historical narrative in a more meaningful way.

Every care has been taken to edit out any objectionable material that may not be suitable for students in grade 8. If you have any questions or concerns about this portion of my class please contact me. I would be happy to explain any clips I plan to use, or excuse any student from that portion of class, should their parent not wish them to see a particular film.

Student Initials _____ *Guardian Initials* _____

On Your Mark/Tardy policy

At Burnett each student is expected to be “on your mark” and *ready to learn* when the tardy bell rings. This means that a student may be in the classroom but still marked tardy. Each day in this class the list of what is required in order to be “on your mark will be posted at the front of the room. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive in class early enough to read the list and get the appropriate materials out and ready to go. In this class being *ready to learn* means:

- Being in your assigned seat
- Having the correct materials for that day (notebook, planner, chrome book, textbook, etc.)
- Pencil *already* sharpened

Student Initials _____ *Guardian Initials* _____

School Supplies:

In this class each student is required to bring a notebook to class daily. They should bring a sharpened pencil, eraser, and planner for each class session.

- Composition Notebook
- Planner
- Pencil (if mechanical, YOU must bring extra lead)

Student Initials _____ *Guardian Initials* _____



In Class Participation:

Students are expected to actively participate and put forth their best effort every day. There are a variety of incentives in place that will encourage you to stay engaged and do your best work. In addition to the school-wide rewards and punishments (ROAR cash etc.) there are a variety of active participation incentives within Ms Muntz’ class itself.

Student Initials _____ *Guardian Initials* _____

Film and Video Permission Slip

In this class we will watch clips and excerpts from a variety of feature films in order to understand the historical narrative in a more meaningful way. If you have any questions or concerns about this portion of my class please contact me. I would be happy to explain any clips I plan to use, or excuse any student from that portion of class, should their parent not wish them to see a particular film. Some of the films we will watch clips of include:

Amistad, The Last of the Mohicans, John Adams, The Patriot, 12 Years a Slave, Gods and Generals, Gettysburg, Cold Mountain, Lincoln, Glory, National Treasure, Nicholas Nickelby, Les Miserables

I, (Guardian Name) _____, give permission
for my student: (name) _____,
to watch film/video clips relevant to US History in Ms.Muntz’ class.
(Guardian Signature) _____.

ROAR Expectations for C-2

Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be “On your mark”• Balance different aspects of your life• Act with integrity	
Open-Minded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face challenges with a smile• Seek other points of view	
Always Caring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STARS• Listen carefully to others• Show compassion	
Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand your strengths and weaknesses• Make thoughtful decisions	