

United States History

Turn of River M.S. – 8th Grade

Mr. DeFilippo – Room 209

Email: jdefilippo@stamfordct.gov

Website: <http://www.jdefilippos.blogspot.com/>

A. CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this class, we will be studying the history of the United States from the colonial period through Reconstruction era topics. We will focus our study around five major themes: Colonization; Causes of the American Revolution; The Constitution; the Early Republic; and, Causes of the Civil War.

B. DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

Homework assignments and long-range projects and assignments will be posted in your teacher's classroom and on your teacher's website daily. Students are expected to write down their assignments in their planners each day (in the event there is no assignment you should write "No HW"). Should you need to double-check the assignment, the website is available. The website is also available for your parents/guardians to keep track of your assignments and ensure that you are completing your assignments in a timely manner. Lastly, when you are absent, you should **check the website** for your make-up work since it is available 24/7. It is expected you will have access to a computer in the afternoons/evenings either at home, at a relative's house, at school or at the City Library. In the event you do not believe you will be able to have daily access to a computer, you **MUST** see your teacher by September 8, 2015, to discuss an alternative.

C. REQUIRED MATERIALS

In class you are required to have the following materials each day (unless told otherwise):

Planner

Dividers (for Social Studies class only)

Folder – teacher provided (stays in the classroom)

Flash drive

Pens, Pencils (for projects only), AND highlighters

(Must have PEN for class daily)

Container for Writing Instruments (Suggested)

** Additional materials you may purchase include coloring pencils, glue sticks, safety scissors, and pencil sharpener, a dictionary/thesaurus or online access.

You **may** be provided a textbook: Creating America: A History of the United States. You will be required to take this book home, cover it with a book cover, and leave it there for home use.

If I request you bring it to school, you will be required to do so. These books are **VERY** expensive to replace (\$50-100) so please be very careful with them.

D. GRADING PLAN

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Homework | 10% | |
| 2. Classwork | 15% | |
| 2. Projects/Long-Range Assign. | 30% | |
| 3. Quizzes/Tests | | 30% |
| 4. Contribution/Preparation* | 15% | |

*This is similar to a participation grade. The difference, however, is that you are not only graded on your vocal participation. This grade incorporates your work and actions in class including being prepared for class with all materials and assignments, an attitude for success, behavior, full effort in class, full participation in completing group assignments, and participating in activities and discussions.

Extra-Effort

EFFORT in class will be rewarded! We do not provide traditional Extra-Credit assignments. You may, however, earn EXTRA EFFORT points by bringing in a relevant news article, magazine article, book, etc. for the class to discuss. You can also arrange for a guest to come to class or other actions that are above the “call of duty.” Extra Effort points are used at the end of the quarter when a student is on the verge of the next best grade. If the student has shown Extra Effort, we will bump them up to the next grade!

E. ATTENDANCE

1. Importance

Keep in mind that this is a class in which we are ACTIVELY learning about the material each day. Make-up work at home does not substitute for the learning that takes place in our class. Also, we do a lot of group project work in which classmates rely on each other. Therefore, attendance is important for you to be as successful as possible. Late work may or may not be accepted at the discretion of the teacher.

3. Extra-Help

Set up an appointment to see your teacher for extra-help.

F. CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

1. 5 P's

We expect students will follow the 5P's Code. The 5P's are:

**BE PROMPT, BE POLITE, BE PRODUCTIVE, BE PATIENT,
BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE**

Within the 5P's, students are expected to follow numerous procedures/norms which we will discuss in class and post on our classroom's walls. The inability to follow these procedures may result in a reminder, discussion, or dealt with according to the TOR Code of Conduct. Each of the 5 P's incorporates a multitude of procedures that, as 8th graders, you should be aware of and are following on a daily basis.

2. TOR Code of Conduct

Students will be required to follow the TOR Code of Conduct. This includes (but is not exclusive) the school's Dress Code policy and the NO Weapons, Vandalism and Electronic Devices policies. Notably, any electronic devices seen or heard in the classroom will be confiscated.

G. SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

This class may be one of the more challenging that you've had thus far. I understand the material will be difficult and seem to be overwhelming at times, but once the standards and procedures are learned by the student, each lesson should become easier and easier to comprehend. That being said, Mr. DeFilippo appreciates and recognizes student *motivation* and *desire* to understand. You will ask questions, make predictions, read, research, collect data, analyze information, and ultimately develop your own answers about what happened in American History.

I, _____, have read the 8th grade Social
(name of student)

Studies' class syllabus. I understand the information contained within the syllabus and I agree to abide by the classroom procedures/norms and school rules and to utilize my teacher's website to ensure my success in Social Studies. I also agree to seek extra-help from my teacher, my parents/guardian, or another source, if I need it, so that I can be successful.

(Signature of student)

As the parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____, I have
(Name of student)

also reviewed the 8th grade Social Studies syllabus with my child and understand what is expected of him/her and that I can access homework and project information on the teacher's website. If I have further questions or concerns, I agree to contact my child's teacher as soon as they arise so that I can help my child to be as successful as possible.

(signature(s) of parent(s)/guardian(s))

Parental/Guardian Contact Information

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone No's: _____

Email: _____