

8th Grade Social Studies
2011 - 2012

Instructor

Tina White

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Course Description

This course examines the history of the United States from the Constitutional Convention and the Civil War period through the Civil Rights era. Despite its vast scope, the course is not intended to be comprehensive. Rather, it is designed to address key events and ideas that have shaped the development of the United States. As part of the new humanities curriculum in the 6th through 12th grades, this course will feature direct ties to the eighth grade English curriculum. Students will complete many projects for credit in both courses, and most of the novels and short stories studied in English will relate to the subject matter discussed in history.

Learning Benchmarks

Reads and annotates actively to demonstrate critical thinking.

Consolidates salient information in notes using various formats

Creates and analyzes tools of geography to explain historical events

Analyzes and evaluates history from multiple perspectives

Evaluates and discusses issues in historical context using primary source material

Preparation for Class / Course Materials

The Tempest at Dawn

Up Close –Robert F Kennedy

Nystrom Atlas of US History

Teaching Methods

Class discussion and debate

Lecture with note taking

Video presentations

Simulations

Group and individual projects

Student directed assessment/evaluation of own work

Assessments

quizzes and examinations (with strong emphasis on essay writing)
group and individual projects (stressing cooperation, research, and writing)
homework (will follow the late work/absence policy in the Holland Hall handbook).
class participation

Projected Course Schedule

- Constitution
- Civil War
- WWI
- WWII
- Civil Rights