

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies: United States History

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## Teacher Contact Information:

Miss Pol  
Room 203  
Classroom Telephone: (219) 873-2057, ext. 7346  
Email: [mpol@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:mpol@mcas.k12.in.us)  
Website: [www.misspolclassroom.weebly.com](http://www.misspolclassroom.weebly.com)



## Course Description:

In this Social Studies class, we will be learning about the development of the United States by examining connections to the past in order to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students will examine political, economic, technological, and social developments of the United States from the exploration period through Reconstruction. This includes the impact of expansion on the country's development; political, social, and economics conflicts; influence of diverse groups on cultural development of the U.S.; and key concepts of the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. This class is very important for you later on in life. If you are asking yourself, "So what does this mean to me?" one day, your eighth grade class will run our country, so it is important that we begin learning now how our country is run and its history, so that you can successfully make improvements for the nation and world at large. In this class we will have a lot of discussions, deliberations, debates, etc. to help you make connections from the past to the present. I hope by the end of the school year for each of you to closely examine arguments/issues in our nation. I want you not to just become a proud American citizen but also the productive American citizen of tomorrow

## Website

For this class, I will be maintaining a classroom website. This website will have information and assignments posted daily. In case you happen to miss a class, there should be no excuse for you not to know what is expected of you in this classroom. Parents/Guardians are also welcomed to visit this website to stay involved in our classroom.

## Grading

Grades are based on projects, writing assignments, in-class work, tests, quizzes, homework, etc.

Grade scale range is as follows:

100-90% = A  
89-80% = B  
79-70% = C  
69-60% = D  
59-0% = F

## Homework

Homework is the responsibility of each and every student in this class. Homework provides the opportunity to review, reinforce, and extend the classroom learning through application and practice. Homework may include textbook reading assignments, outlines, journal entries, vocabulary, papers, essays, handouts, worksheets, studying for tests and quizzes, and/or completing projects and any work that was not finished in class that day.

## Late Work

Our class will be following the Barker Middle School late work policy. Under this policy, late work is considered an assignment turned in after its original due date. Work turned in late due to an unexcused tardy will be considered late. Late assignments must be turned in the next day the class meets, at the beginning of the period. Assignments turned in late will incur a 10% reduction in the grade.

Students who were absent from school will be given one day for every day they were absent to complete the make-up work *without* a reduction in grade.

Once an assignment is more than one day late, it cannot be accepted for credit. There will not be another opportunity to make up missed assignments. Please try your best to do your work on time! I understand when stuff comes up but for your best interest get the work done on time. Also all the work is related to the exams, so it will help you out a lot for studying for this class!

## **Tardies**

Students must be in the room when the bell rings or they will be considered tardy. If you are tardy to class I expect you to enter the classroom quietly, do not disturb others, find your seat and get yourself prepared for the remainder of the class period. You are granted three unexcused tardies. After the third tardy, I am obliged to follow the Barker Middle School Tardy Policy, which will require further disciplinary action.

## **Absences**

It is the student's responsibility to request work missed due to absence. Please try to find out what happened during the class periods you missed BEFORE class begins. It is easier to explain to you during that time what you are required to do due to the absence instead of once class has already begun. It will help you from falling more behind. Class assignments, information, and homework will also be posted on the classroom website for your convenience as well. If you don't have access to a computer, missed homework and assignments will be placed in the missing assignments box in the back of the classroom too and posted on the classroom calendar.

## **Extra Credit**

Throughout the year, I will provide plenty of Extra Credit opportunities for students to earn extra points. This could be helpful in case one happens to score poorly on an assignment, quiz, test, etc. Extra credit can be earned through community engagement, writing current event reports, etc. A separate handout will be given with guidelines to completing extra credit. It is a student's responsibility to make initiative to complete extra credit.

However, following Barker Middle School policies, no extra credit work will be accepted during the last week of any grading period. Please, make sure to turn extra credit in throughout the grading period.

## **Technology**

Cell phones, music players, tablets, handheld gaming systems, etc. are a distraction to the learning process. Do not make your devices a distraction. If I see you using any of these items, for any reason, I will warn you and tell you to put it away. If your device continues to be a habitual distraction I will make you surrender your device to me until class is dismissed. If you argue over me confiscating your device, it will result in a detention and I will call the office over the matter. No devices should be visible during tests or quizzes. If I find you using your device you will receive a zero on that test or quiz.

All of this really boils down to three simple expectations:

- Be ready to learn
- Be responsible
- Be respectful

*If you can do those three things always in this classroom, you will be fine!*

At the end of each class, please check around your area for trash or other material that need to be picked up. Push in chairs and straighten desks prior to leaving the room.

In the occurrence that class discussions or assignments are completed prior to the ring of the bell, students **are not to line up by the door.**

All procedures are enforced with the teacher's discretion and any topic not addressed within this syllabus will be dealt with in a manner deemed appropriate by the teacher.

**In conclusion, I would like to welcome you to the eighth grade and I look forward to the year ahead.  
Remember, you can always come to me with questions and concerns!**