



8<sup>th</sup> Grade SAS Honors U.S. History And Geography  
Creating America: A History Of The United States/Growth and Conflict  
Mrs. LaCour -E223

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students in grade eight will study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the constitution up to WWI, with an emphasis on America's role in the war. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions founded on the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, particularly the shaping of the constitution, students trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They will learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the civil war. They will make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

### **EXPECTATIONS ON BEHAVIOR**

1. **Be on time:** You must be in class and in your seat before the bell rings. Anyone not seated will earn an unexcused tardy.
2. **Be ready to learn:** Have all required materials ready to use every day, pay attention during the lessons, and always follow the rules posted in the classroom and in the Hale Pocket Planner.
3. **Always show respect:** Impolite and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. All opinions, feelings, personal space, privacy, and property of others will be valued at all times.
4. **Follow directions:** Listen to all instructions and make sure to write down the important information. Not following instructions on assignments will hurt your grade.

### **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**

A portion of a students' grade will be based on his/her regular attendance. Since we will be covering a large amount of information, irregular attendance will be harmful to your ability to succeed in class. Additionally, students need to report to class on time. A stocked binder, textbook, and any other supplies needed each and every day are to be brought to class each day. Please note: once lockers are issued backpacks **WILL NOT** be allowed in the classroom. Students must come prepared!

### **Criteria for determining grades for achievement may include but are not limited to:**

1. Preparation of assignments, including accuracy, legibility and promptness.
2. Contribution to classroom discussions.
3. Demonstrated understanding of concepts in tests.
4. Application of skills and principles to new situations.
5. Organization and presentation of written and oral reports
6. Originality and reasoning ability when working through problems.

### **GRADING POLICY**

Every assignment is given a point value. At the end of each grading period a student's total earned points are added together. The sum is divided by the total points possible to find his/her average. This is an HONORS COURSE; therefore I use a grading scale that



encourages an **ABOVE AVERAGE EXPECTATION** from each student. Each student is capable of excelling and really **mastering** a concept or skill. It is my job to teach and a student's to learn. With effort they will all succeed! Therefore, this class will use the A-B-C-FAIL grading scale. (see below) Homework assignments range in point value from 20-50; and will be given 2-3 times a week. Quizzes and tests are worth 200-250; and will be given at the end of each chapter. Culminating projects/unit projects will be assigned once a grading period and will be worth 500-800 points.

### **A-B-C-FAIL GRADING SCALE**

**100% - 90% = A**      **89% - 80% = B**      **79% - 70 = C**      **69%-0 = FAIL**

### **LETTER GRADES**

Students earn points for all assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests. These points determine the overall letter grade for each report card sent home every five weeks. Students are encouraged to keep all graded assignments, projects, and exams and to maintain a record of their points and percentage so that they know their letter grade at all times through-out the school year. Grades for achievement shall be reported each marking period as follows:

A	Mastery Achievement	100-90 percentage points
B	Above Average Achievement	89-80 percentage points
C	At-Grade Level Achievement	79-70 percentage points
F	Little or No Achievement	69-0 percentage points
M	Missing/Incomplete	0 no recorded score



### **RE-TAKING TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments/homework are submitted once for grading. **All tests** can be **re-taken ONE TIME**. The intent is to learn, not feel defeated. The retake is a different version of the original test, but contains the same information. Retakes will be held Tuesday and Thursday morning before school. Projects, due to time restrictions, are submitted one time only.

### **ON-LINE TESTING-QUIA**

The students in my classes will be taking all tests/exams on-line. I use a testing website called QUIA ([www.quia.com](http://www.quia.com)). Each student will be issued a username and password to access their testing accounts. Tests will be taken in a computer lab. Once the students have become familiar with the testing site. Student will be allowed to use his/her own computer. (Hale Charter Academy **will not** be responsible for lost or stolen property. If you have any questions please let me know.) Students will be allowed to use notes, and textbook to complete the text/exam. This testing program generates a different test for each student using the questions I have entered. This enables me to give a limitless amount of test versions simultaneously. If a re-take is needed I use the same test, but the questions are again re-shuffled. Much like college course tests, one question is shown at a time. The student answers and moves on to the subsequent question. All students will be allowed to review submitted answers and change submitted answers if needed.



## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating or plagiarism on class work, homework, projects, or exams will not be tolerated per the rules of regulations of LAUSD and Hale Charter Academy. Any student caught cheating or tutoring in work that is not their own will not receive credit for the assignment, and will be referred to their counselor, dean, or administrator for disciplinary action.

**The following may occur for those students who choose not to complete assigned work:**

- Overall grades will be lowered, possibly eliminating participation in any extracurricular activities and rewards.
- Excessive missing assignments will be documented and communicated to parents/guardians
- Parents will be asked to sign the Pocket Planner or other form of documentation.
- Students may receive detention (Nutrition, Lunch, after-school) or be referred to their Dean or Counselor.



**Guidelines for students who missed completing assignments due to absence:**

- The student is responsible for all make-up work (this includes class work, homework, projects, and exams). Students must ask the teacher or fellow classmates for their assignments
- Time to make-up work will be determined by how many days the student missed times two (Example: 2 days absent = 4 days to make it up).
- Should a student miss a quiz or test; it will be given the day the student returns to class.

## **8th Grade – U.S History & Geography: Creating America: A History Of The United States/Growth and Conflict Course Outline**

### **COURSE INTRODUCTION**

**UNIT 1: English Colonies and Beginnings of an American Identity**

**UNIT 2: American Revolution**

**UNIT 3: United States Constitution**

**UNIT 4: The Early Republic-Jefferson Era/Industry, Nationalism, and Sectionalism**

**MIDTERM EXAM WEEK (last week of Fall Semester)**

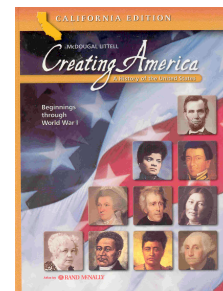
**UNIT 5: Changing Nation-Age of Jackson and Manifest Destiny**

**UNIT 6: Reform Movements and Immigration**

**UNIT 7: Civil War-Growing Tension between North and South**

**UNIT 8: The Reconstruction**

**FINAL EXAM WEEK (week #15 of Spring Semester)**



### **TEXTBOOK**

***Creating America-A History of the United States Beginnings through W.W. I  
McDougal Littell***

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History Class Supplies-Mrs. LaCour

- One 2" three-ring binder (color is mandatory)
  - Period #1 Red
  - Period #3 Blue
  - Period #4 Yellow
  - Period #5 Black
  - Period #6 Green
- One package of dividers
- Notebook paper/spiral notebook for note-taking
- One highlighter (any color-this will be used during note-taking and classroom lectures)
- One set of colored pencils
- One pack of post-its (any color) used to mark pages in textbook without writing in the book itself.
- Black or blue pens
- Pencils (.5 or .7 lead if using mechanical)
- **Internet Access at Home** My website will be used by your child on a daily basis to access homework, daily agendas, class notes, or contact me if help is needed with work. Also in these days of budget cuts, teachers are very limited in numbers of copies they are allowed to make. So all project criteria and rubrics will be posted on-line. Hardcopies will be provided upon request of parent.



### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Failure to bring required to class will affect your grade. How? Well, for starters, you can't complete the work without them. Additionally, the participation portion of your grade includes points for bringing the required materials to class.



**PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING SHEET TO MRS. LACOUR  
BY FRIDAY 8/15/2014**

**We have read and reviewed the Course Description for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History. Together we will work to achieve success. I acknowledge receipt of the course description, classroom policies, grading scale, classroom expectations, and class supplies. If we have questions about the class or class assignments, we have been provided with the Hale Charter Academy Website address and an email address to contact Mrs. LaCour.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class Period #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian  
Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent /Guardian  
Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent  
Email:** \_\_\_\_\_