

San Benancio Middle School

Eighth Grade United States History

Course Syllabus

Teacher Information

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About San Benancio Middle School

San Benancio Middle School offers a rich array of programs, challenging and engaging instruction, and extracurricular activities, all of which encourage students to learn to reach their potential, whether it is through academics, sports, arts, music, or leadership. The school has a long and proud history of academic achievement, thanks to an experienced and dedicated teaching staff and a curriculum that aligns with the State's Standards in all the content areas.

Students attending San Benancio experience challenging instruction that prepares them well for their high school experience. Graduates of San Benancio are academically successful and are often the student leaders in their high schools, whether in public or private settings. Students at the school perform exceptionally well on state tests and successfully compete in county academic competitions, such as the Spelling Bee and Math Counts. In addition to academics, students may participate in several instrumental groups, in performance and visual arts, the school's yearbook, team sports, and community service activities.

Course Description

Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I, 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 learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

Student Evaluation

The Grading System will be as follows:

Attendance & Participation: 5%	A: 90% and Above
Projects: 15%	B: 80-89%
Classwork & Homework: 20%	C: 70-79%
Quizzes: 20%	D: 60-69%
Formal Assessments: 40%*	F: Below 59%

**Note: The final is worth 5%*

Classroom Expectations

GOLDEN RULE: Never speak while someone else is speaking

- 1) Students must come to class on time
- 2) Assignments are turned in on time
- 3) Participate in class discussions
- 4) Have a positive attitude in class
- 5) Come to class ready to learn
- 6) Treat peers with respect
- 7) Use technology responsibly
- 8) Treat school property with respect

Late Work

If a student has an excused absence, then late work will be accepted between two days to one week after the student returns to school (depending on the length of the excused absence). For students turning in assignment late because of an unexcused absence or another reason, the individual will lose a predetermined amount of points depending on the type of assignment. For writing assignments, students will lose 10% off of their grade for every day late. If a writing assignment is turned in more than five days late, the student will receive half credit. For all other assignments, they will be accepted late for half credit. Late work must be turned in over the course of the relevant unit or five days after the assignment was due if the due date was during the final week of the unit. Assignments turned in after this time will not be accepted.

NOTE: I have a much more liberal late work policy than the rest of San Benancio Middle School because I do not want to damage grades beyond repair due to a simple mistake. If students abuse my late work policy, I reserve the right to adopt the “zero tolerance” late work policy that has been implemented by many of the other teachers.

Online Grades

I will post grades online as soon as I am able to finish grading the assignment for each and every student in the class—this will take no longer than one week from the due date (grades will often be posted sooner). If, for whatever reason, assignment grades are going to be posted later than a week after the due date, I will inform the class and give an estimated date in which grades will be posted.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to get to class on time and participate in the planned activities for the day. At the beginning of each trimester, students will start with 120 points in the attendance and participation category of their grade (60 points for attendance and 60 points for participation). If the student meets the classroom expectations, then they will receive the full 120 points, if not, the grade in this category will go down. I will keep track of attendance and participation on Class Dojo.

NOTE: While the attendance and participation portion of the grade is only 5%, it does factor in a great deal in the citizenship grade. For example, a student with below 80% in attendance and participation cannot earn an “O” in citizenship.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Zero Tolerance: There is a zero tolerance for cheating. Students caught cheating will be given an automatic zero on the assignment, project, quiz or test and receive a detention. Parents will be notified and other teachers at San Benancio will be alerted. The student will also receive a U in citizenship for the trimester and be ineligible for the honor roll. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying someone else's work, “lending” your workbook, notes and homework to another student, and “lending” knowledge of a test/quiz to another student. Don't risk your grade and integrity for a few points. Please see Mr. Hogan if you have any questions regarding this policy.

Historical Movies

There may be movies shown throughout the year that have various ratings (none will be rated “R”) and all of those shown will be related to the unit that we are covering. A permission slip will not be sent out for each movie. Please indicate if your son/daughter has permission to view these movies in class. There will be an alternate assignment for students who are absent or do not have parental permission to watch the movie.

Please acknowledge that you have read and understand the information explained in this syllabus.

Student's Name (Print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Film Adaptations of Novels

During appropriate units, historical movies (or excerpts of) may be shown. Please indicate below if your son/daughter has permission to view these movies in class. Check the appropriate box and sign on the line provided. Your signature indicates consent to view all films shown in Eighth Grade United States History. Again, no movies shown in class will have an "R" rating.

I give permission for my child to view movies in class:

Parent/Guardian Signature

I **DO NOT** give permission for my child to view movies in class and I am aware my child will be given an alternate assignment:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Book Contract

Any new damage to the books handed out will result in a charge at the end of year. Any new water damage will require the student pay the full price of the book.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature