

Friday Harbor Middle School Course Outline 2016-2017

Course: 8th Grade Social Studies

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Core Concepts and Skills:

- Curriculum is structured around early U.S history, from indigenous peoples up through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Major focus of this class will be on the creation and ratification of the Constitution, and the impact of that document.
- Since social studies is, in fact, more than history class, we will also be working with the structure of the government, different forms of government, the intentions of the founding documents and their actual implication in today's society. Thematically, much of the course will be structured around defining what it means to be a United States citizen, what an individual's role is as a citizen, and how that compares with past.
- We will be doing an extensive amount of work with reading, writing, and research skill sets to prepare for high school.

Major Projects/Activities/Homework

- Major projects will include, but are not limited to, a U.S government simulation, biography research project, mock election, and a podcast. Smaller projects will include group debates, group projects, audio/visual components, and tests/quizzes.
- All students are expected to have a composition notebook/spiral notebook, etc. This notebook is not optional, and must be specifically for this class. This notebook will be used for "writing into the class", a daily warm-up activity, as well as regular note-taking, etc. students will turn in the notebook once a week for a grade.
- Students will turn in and receive much of their homework digitally via google classroom. If internet access at home will be problematic for a student, please come talk to me so we can create a special accommodation.

Required Resources & Reading

- The History of Us: The New Nation 1789-1850 by Joy Hakim
- The American Journey Early Years published by National Geographic & Mcgrawhill
- The U.S. Constitution
- Maps/atlas provided in class
- Texts will be supplemented with other historical materials and online articles. These supplementing pieces will all be posted to google classroom.

Grading

Grading is outlined in the Student Handbook. Grades will be based on several categories including homework, classwork, projects, and tests.

- Late work: work turned in 1-2 days late can receive 75% credit at most. Work turned in 3-5 days late can earn half credit (50%) at most. After one week late work will not be accepted. Students receive two late passes each semester.
- Students who turn in a major project on time and want to attempt to raise their grade will have ample opportunity to do so.