

## United States History: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Semester 1 Syllabus

*“An investment in Knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin*



Welcome to United States History! This year we will be exploring content that covers Current Events, the Foundation of our Nation, Civic Responsibility, and how they affect our contemporary society. Below is a rough guide of the topics we will be covering as well as a breakdown of Assignment types and point values attributed to each assignment. Remember, this is what we will be covering for the **First Semester** only! Mr. Lawson is doing this intentionally to ensure that you understand the concepts we cover in class. The amount of time we spend on each topic will fluctuate depending on the classes' level

of comprehension. Finally, this syllabus is not in any way set in stone. Mr. Lawson reserves the right to change or modify the class curriculum as he sees fit.

**Content:** Each unit will consist of regular homework, readings, and assessments designed by Mr. Lawson. Assessments may range from regular in-class writing assignments, Quizzes, Group Projects, and Essays to be determined by Mr. Lawson

**i. Unit 1: Early Americans**

This unit will examine the first Americans, how they arrived on this continent, what their civilizations looked like, and how interactions with European settlers went awry. We will also cover reasons behind Europe's expansion to the Americas, as well as the growth of the Thirteen Colonies.

**ii. Unit 2: Formation of a Nation**

In this unit students will examine how tensions between Colonists and Europeans led to the French and Indiana War, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and the Revolutionary War. Students will also examine the forms of government that ultimately failed in the Americas before the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.

**iii. Unit 3: Launching the Republic**

In this unit students will closely examine the Constitution of the United States, the events surrounding its inception, and tensions that led to further armed conflict with European nations. Students will also spend time learning about the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, our first presidents, and the economic and physical expansion of the United States.



Social Studies

Lawson

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

2017-2018 School Year

**Person Realize:** You will have complete access to your textbook in a digital and hard copy version. You will be assigned your username and password by Mr. Lawson. If you happen to have lost/forgot either of these please see Mr. Lawson. A link to your digital textbook can be found on Mr. Lawson's website, or you can type in the link to your search bar:

- [https://sso.rumba.pearsoncmg.com/sso/login?profile=realize&k12int=true&service=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pearsonrealize.com%2Fcommunity%2Fj\\_spring\\_cas\\_security\\_check](https://sso.rumba.pearsoncmg.com/sso/login?profile=realize&k12int=true&service=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pearsonrealize.com%2Fcommunity%2Fj_spring_cas_security_check)

### Breakdown of Assignments:

1<sup>st</sup> Semester Final Exam – 100 pts.

Essays – 100 pts. each

Quizzes – 35 pts. Quizzes will occur at the end of each lesson, topic, or else decided by Mr. Lawson

Homework Assignments – 10 pts. each

In Class Assignments – 10 pts. each

Q.O.D.'s – 5 pts. Due at the end of every week.

Binder Checks – points will vary

Projects – Points will vary

Extra Credit – Is decided on a case by case basis by Mr. Lawson

### Point Breakdown:

#### Homework:

+ = 10/10

V+ = 8-9/10

V = 6-7/10

V- = 4-5/10

- = 0-3/10

### Percent Breakdown:

- 93 – 100 = A
- 85 – 92 = B
- 75 – 84 = C
- 70 – 74 = D
- 69 – Below = F

**Late Work:** Late homework will receive a 10% deduction each day it is late, with the maximum penalty of 50% for late work. Late Projects/Essays will be penalized one letter grade per day they are late. For example, if a homework grade is 10 points and it is turned in one day late the highest grade it can receive is a 9/10; if it is turned in two days late 8/10, three days late 7/10, and so on. However further points can be deducted from the maximum score if Mr. Lawson deems the work to be of poor quality or does not meet expectations.

**Miscellaneous:** It is Mr. Lawson's job to prepare you for High School and beyond. Thus, it is his expectation of you to advocate for yourself, first. That means if you have any questions or concerns, please set up a time to meet with him before asking your parents to speak with him. Remember, you are your own best advocate. If you don't stand up for yourself, eventually, no one will!

