



United States History

8th Grade SCPS Pre-IB & Gifted

Milwee Middle School

2019-2020 Course Syllabus

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Course Overview

Eighth Grade Pre-IB Prep United States History is designed for highly motivated students who wish to pursue the International Baccalaureate Program or Advanced Placement courses in high school. Students will explore the events of U.S. history using documents, images, cartoons and other primary sources along with secondary text. With a more rigorous focus on document based inquiry, the students will examine and analyze the political, economic, technological and social developments of the United States from the **period of colonial settlement through post-Civil War Reconstruction**. Florida's role in our nation's history will also be emphasized. Instruction will focus on students developing an understanding of themes in U.S. history including the impact of expansion, the development of conflicts, the influence of diverse groups on American culture and the impact of world events on American thinking. This course was designed to give students a more in-depth view of U.S. History and includes the development of complex skills in reading, writing and research. Writing in a historical context will be emphasized and students will be expected to engage in extended research and produce writing of significance on a frequent basis. At Milwee Middle, engineering lessons will also be infused throughout the year.

The main textbook for this course is *History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism*. Students will have online access to the textbook at home and a hardcopy textbook in class..

Class Requirements

As a student in my class, you are required to:

1. Come to class and be on time
2. Come to class prepared everyday with your
 - o Folder with 2 pockets and 3 center prongs (one per semester)
 - o Pen and/or pencil
 - o Notebook paper
3. Show respect for yourself, other students, and the faculty/staff
4. Always try to do your best!

The school-wide discipline policy will be used to enforce the above requirements, if needed.

Community Service

Students in the SCPS Pre-IB program are required to participate in community service. Eighth grade students **must earn 24 hours** of community service between the end of 7th grade & mid-May 2020. If you would like to qualify for the Presidential Service Award for 50 hours or more of service, you **MUST** submit your hours by late March 2020. Also, if you do community service hours at any SCPS school, please sign up to become a SCPS Dividend and log those hours.

Advanced Placement Skills

The AP History and Social Science Curriculum Alignment Framework identifies four key skills that students need to master to be successful in academically challenging course work, which can prepare them for advanced-level coursework success. These skills include:

- Practice Inquiry
- Identify and interpret information from primary and other sources
- Analyze data from written and visual sources
- Evaluate, apply and clearly present information

DBQ Project

One of the main components of this course will be the DBQ Project, which is committed to helping teachers implement rigorous writing and thinking activities with students of all skill levels. This project is guided by the 5 core beliefs:

1. All students need to learn how to think
2. Learning to think requires practice
3. Thinking is hard work
4. Thinking is clarified by writing
5. Thinking is for everyone

Through Document Based Questions (DBQs), students develop high-level critical thinking skills through engaging questions and use of primary and secondary sources. Students are given the opportunity to investigate history from a variety of perspectives. DBQs support discussion and debate as students clarify their own ideas and write evidence-based arguments. Learning this way not only deepens student understanding of history, it also builds reading, thinking, and writing skills.

NHD History Fair:

All 8th grade Pre-IB Prep students are required to complete a NHD History Fair research project. The NHD project is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to broaden their historical experiences and develop necessary research skills that engage them in higher order thinking skills. Students will choose a historical topic related to the annual theme, then conduct primary and secondary research. After analyzing and interpreting their sources, students will draw a conclusion about the significance of their topic and present their work in one of five ways: a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a web site.

Detailed information about the NHD requirements will be provided by the start of 2nd quarter and the project will be due in January 2020. For more information in the meantime, please visit www.nhd.org.

The theme for 2020 is “Breaking Barriers in History.”

Student Signature:

Parent Signature: