

U.S. History I – 8th Grade

Annaka Nay ◊ North Star Academy ◊ Room 122
anay@north-staracademy.com ◊ naysnews.weebly.com

United States History I covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the western movement, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, Civil War, Reconstruction, and western movement. Although the emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries, additional content may be covered as time permits.

Grading Scale

93-100% = A	90-92% = A-	87-89% = B+
83-86% = B	80-82% = B-	77-79% = C+
73-76% = C	70-72% = C-	67-69% = D+
63-66% = D	60-62% = D-	59% and below = F

Grades will be based off assignments, tests, and participation. Grades will be assigned by percentage of points earned out of those possible.

Citizenship

Citizenship scores are based on a point scale from 0-100. All students start the year at 90.

- Honors (H) - 100-90
- Satisfactory (S) - 89-80
- Needs Improvement (N) - 79-70
- Unsatisfactory (U) - 69-0

Citizenship will be graded using the six pillars of the Character Counts program.

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Citizenship

Supplies (needed every day)

- One inch three-ring binder with five dividers
- Loose-leaf college rule lined paper
- Pencil pouch with at least 5 pens or pencils (pens must be blue or black ink)
- School Planner
- Colored Pencils
- *Requested, though optional: pencil sharpener, flash drive*

Current Events

Current event assignments are due each time class falls on Monday. They should discuss a current event from the week. Students will fill out the required current event worksheet.

Writing

We will write weekly in class. The subject and type of writing will vary. When we research a topic, I expect the student to read, understand the information they have uncovered, and then write in their OWN words.

Assignments

- I will try to give students as much time as possible for work in class. If students are unable to finish their work in class, they will take it home to finish.
- Larger projects may require more outside work.
- If a student is absent, it is *their* responsibility to get any missed work and make arrangements to fulfill requirements.
- For excused absences, students have one week from the day they return to class to turn in assignments. To view what students missed look on the class website or the log in the classroom.
- Assignments from unexcused absences may not be made up.

Turning in Assignments

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified.
- ***If students turn in their work on time, they will be able to re-do the assignment for additional credit up until the unit test.**
- **Late work is accepted with a 10% deduction per class period it is late, up to 50%. Assignments turned in late will not have the option to re-do for additional credit.**
- Assignments turned in early are welcome!
- Assignments will be returned when graded.
- Re-done assignments must be turned in *with* the original assignment.

History Lab: Mon & Wed, 3-3:45 pm

Individual help and retesting is available Monday and Wednesdays from 3-3:45 pm. Additional help is available by appointment.

Expectations

1. Arrive on time and be on task when bell rings
2. Come prepared with assignments and supplies
3. Be respectful of people and property
4. Participate in all activities and discussions
5. Follow directions

Earning Points

- Students will keep a binder of assignments. At the end of the term, these binders will be turned in for points. We will use this binder daily.
- Turning in assignments on time will have the greatest impact on a grade.
- Many assignments, along with some tests, will be passed to another student in the class to grade. The rest will be graded by the teacher. I will also grade written assignments and exams.

Extra Credit

- Each unit will have one extra credit assignment or project that students may complete. Students may turn in these assignments any time until the end of the unit. The assignment can be found on the Unit Guide given at the beginning of each unit.
- Additional extra credit may be earned with unused hall passes. Each student is given three hall passes per term.

Community Experience

- Each term there will be one (1) Community Experience assignment that takes two hours to complete.
- It will be due two weeks prior to the end of the term. Students may choose the activity they want to do, though they may not do an activity more than once. More details are on the class website.
- An alternate two-page research paper with complete bibliography is also an option. Research topics must be approved by teacher prior to due date.

Videos

To support our curriculum, the following videos might be shown in part or in entirety. I feel that videos can be an important tool in learning when used properly. I require that each student participate in a learning activity associated with the videos as they are shown, such as: taking notes, completing a video guide, taking a quiz on the video's information, writing a response to the video, critiquing the video.

- The Maya (Time Life)
- The Inca (Time Life)
- The War That Made America
- Schoolhouse Rock
- A More Perfect Union
- Mill Times
- America: The Story of Us
- The Men That Made America
- Gettysburg (rated PG)
- Gone With the Wind
- Presidential Collection (Smithsonian Channel)
- Various clips from UEN and The History Channel

Textbooks

Each student will receive a textbook that the student is responsible for throughout the school year.

Classroom Policies

- Electronics are not allowed. If students are found with them, I reserve the right take them for the rest of the day. Students may retrieve them at the office after school.
- If there is an emergency, parents can contact their students through the main office.
- Cheating will result in a failing grade on the assignment or test.
- No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the classroom, with the exception of a water bottle.
- We will do a lot of group work and discussion, and student cooperation is necessary. If students do not act appropriately, I reserve the right to give applicable discipline, such as verbal warning, loss of points, extra homework, call home, or after school detention. Inappropriate behavior will also result in citizenship grade reduction.

*I follow all school policies including attendance, dress code, and sexual harassment.
For further details, please see the school policies page on the school website.*

Contact

As the year progresses, you will receive information on your student's progress, behavior, and class work to help keep you informed. I will be delighted to answer any questions or concerns that may arise. Grades will be updated every Friday. To contact me or find information about the class:

- Call the school and leave a message.
- The most effective way to contact me is by e-mail at: anay@north-staracademy.com.
- Check the class website.
- Parents and students may sign up for alerts via Remind101

Class Website

naysnews.weebly.com

This website is intended as a place where students and parents can see assignments, homework, and project details, as well as due dates. To view of brief summary of what we covered in a class period look at the class agenda, which can be found from the class website. A digital copy of all assignments will be uploaded onto the website.

There will be a print out of the class reviews and assignments in the classroom. The website will be updated weekly, or if changes to due dates, etc., occur.

Please visit this website often to keep up on what is going on in class!

End Statements

Through the implementation of the School-wide Enrichment Model (SEM), students will demonstrate:

- **Good Citizenship**
- **Academic Achievement**
- **Critical Thinking**

