

U.S. History I – 8th Grade

Annaka Nay ♦ North Star Academy ♦ Room 122

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Credentials: BA in History Education from Brigham Young University; Level 2 Secondary Educator License in History/Social Studies Composite

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+
60%-66% = 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)

- Paper (college ruled preferred)
- Pen/Pencil (only black or blue ink pens)
- Student workbook
- A place for loose papers
- School planner
- Colored pencils & glue stick

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

These rules will support the BEARS values: **Be Safe, Encourage Others, Act responsibly, Respect all, and Strive for Excellence.**

Current Events

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

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 research paper with complete bibliography is also an option. Research topics must be approved by teacher prior to due date.

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.
- There will be homework. Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified.
- Assignments will be returned ungraded to students if the work is of poor quality or handwriting for the student to fix and turn back in.
- Students will have a workbook of assignments. This workbook will be used daily and *must* be brought to class. The workbook will be turned in approximately every three weeks for 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.

Workbooks

At the beginning of both semesters, each student will receive a workbook. This workbook contains the majority of in class assignments. If this workbook is lost or damaged, it will cost \$5 to replace, to be paid in the main office.

School Improvement Goal

“The NSA community will increase students’ happiness while learning by focusing on each individual.” In this class we will be incorporating a variety of activities in an effort to support these goals. These activities are intended to allow for learning in a fun and engaging manner.

Turning in Assignments

- **Late work is accepted with a 10% deduction per class period it is late, up to 50%, unless prior arrangements have been made.**
- **After three weeks, missing assignments will no longer be accepted.**
- Assignments turned in early are welcome and encouraged!
- Assignments will be returned when graded.

Absences

- 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 for full credit, unless the due date was given prior to absence, in which case the due date holds. If the due date was given prior to absence and student is absent on the due date, the assignment is due upon the student's return.
- Assignments from unexcused absences may not be made up.
- If a test is missed, students have one week upon return to take the test. Students need to come to an after school lab or make an appointment.

Consequences & Rewards

Unsatisfactory behavior will result in lowered citizenship grade, email/phone call home, or visit to the principal.

Positive behavior will result in late work pass, Principal's 200 Club, positive email/phone call home, or raised citizenship grade.

History Lab: Thurs 3-4 pm

Individual help and retesting is available Thursdays from 3-4 pm. Additional help is available by appointment.

Reteaching & Retesting Opportunities

- Individual Reteaching and Retesting will occur after school during labs, or before school by appointment.
- Students are allowed to retake tests for one week after the test is graded and returned to the student.
- Reteaching and Retesting may also occur during class time, depending on student needs.

Extra Credit

- Extra credit options are available in the workbook.
- Extra credit will only be given if the student has no missing work and will be added to Aspire at the end of the term.

End Statements

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

- **Good Citizenship**
- **Academic Excellence**
- **Critical Thinking**

Textbooks

Textbooks may be checked out at various times to students. When checked out, the student is responsible for the care of the book.

Classroom Policies

- Electronics are not allowed unless used with teacher permission for a class activity. If students are found with them, I reserve the right to 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:

- The most effective way to contact me is by e-mail at: anay@north-staracademy.com.
- Call the school and leave a message.
- Check the class website.

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 a 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.

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!

Novel

In addition to the textbook and workbook, we will be reading the novel *Blood on the River* by Elisa Carbone. This is a

novel following an young boy during the settlement of Jamestown.

Please sign that you understand and agree to the statements.

Student:

- I have read the 8th grade disclosure document for Ms. Nay's class and understand what is required of me in order to do well in this class.
- I agree to follow the classroom rules.

Print Student Name	Student Signature	Date
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Parent (please check the box that applies):

- I have read the 8th grade disclosure document for Ms. Nay's class and understand the classroom policies and expectations.

I give permission for my student to watch the listed films.

OR I *do not* give permission for my student to watch the listed films. Please specify (may use empty space below if needed): _____

I would be willing to volunteer in the classroom and/or chaperone a field trip sometime in the future.

I would be willing to volunteer from home.

Print name	Signature	Date
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E-mail _____

Telephone number _____

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)
- Pocahontas (rated G)
- The War That Made America
- Schoolhouse Rock
- A More Perfect Union
- Mill Times
- America: The Story of Us
- The Men That Made America
- Gone With the Wind
- Newsies (rated PG)
- The Children's March
- Journey to Freedom
- The Children's March
- Presidential Collection (Smithsonian Channel)
- Various clips from films, UEN, and The History Channel as educationally appropriate