

DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dobbs Ferry, N. Y. 10522

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Individuals and Societies

GRADE: 7

Offered: Full Year

Type of Course: Required

Social Studies 7 is the first year of a two-year survey course in United States History. The course begins with a study of the Pre-Columbia Era and ends with the Civil War. Students will study the curriculum in chronological order; beginning with how the early inhabitants of the Americas lived and how life changed with the introduction of European peoples and their culture. Important skills will be learned throughout the course of the year, which will allow students to develop as historians and be prepared for future courses in social studies. Both traditional and alternative assessments are utilized throughout the course, and each student is encouraged to utilize their individual talents. Constant connections are made between the time periods studied and the world students live in today.

Anticipated student outcomes: *Student outcomes for the social studies curriculum can be found at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-framework>. Below are the topics being covered during the school year.*

Unit 1: 7.1 NATIVE AMERICANS

The physical environment and natural resources of North America influenced the development of the first human settlements and the culture of Native Americans. Native American societies varied across North America.

(Standards: 1, 2; Themes: ID, MOV, GEO)

Unit Two: 7.2 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENTS

European exploration of the New World resulted in various interactions with Native Americans and in colonization. The American colonies were established for a variety of reasons and developed differently based on economic, social, and geographic factors. Colonial America had a variety of social structures under which not all people were treated equally.

(Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4; Themes: MOV, GEO, ECO, TECH, EXCH)

Unit Three: 7.3 AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Growing tensions over political power and economic issues sparked a movement for independence from Great Britain. New York played a critical role in the course and outcome of the American Revolution.

(Standards: 1, 4, 5; Themes: TCC, GOV, ECO)

Unit Four: 7.4 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The newly independent states faced political and economic struggles under the Articles of Confederation. These challenges resulted in a Constitutional Convention, a debate over ratification, and the eventual adoption of the Bill of Rights.

(Standards: 1, 5; Themes: GOV, CIV)

Unit Five: 7.5 THE CONSTITUTION IN PRACTICE

The United States Constitution serves as the foundation of the United States government and outlines the rights of citizens. The Constitution is considered a living document that can respond to political and social changes. The New York Constitution also has been changed over time.

(Standards: 1, 5; Themes: TCC, GOV, CIV)

Unit Six: 7.6 WESTWARD EXPANSION

Driven by political and economic motives, the United States expanded its physical boundaries to the Pacific Ocean between 1800 and 1860. This settlement displaced Native Americans as the frontier was pushed westward.

(Standards: 1, 3; Themes: ID, MOV, TCC, GEO)

Unit Seven: 7.7 REFORM MOVEMENTS

Social, political, and economic inequalities sparked various reform movements and resistance efforts. Influenced by the Second Great Awakening, New York played a key role in major reform efforts.

(Standards: 1, 5; Themes: SOC, CIV, GOV)

Unit Eight: 7.8 A NATION DIVIDED

Westward expansion, the industrialization of the North, and the increase of slavery in the South contributed to the growth of sectionalism. Constitutional conflicts between advocates of States rights and supporters of federal power increased tensions in the nation; attempts to compromise ultimately failed to keep the nation together, leading to the Civil War.

(Standards: 1, 3, 4; Themes: TCC, GEO, GOV, ECO)

Materials required or used:

Instructional Texts

- History of Us
- Discovery Education Techbook

Videos

- Freedom a History of US – Video Series
- America: The Story of Us – Video Series
- United Streaming: Discovery Education- Online Videos

Student Supplies

- Classwork folder (kept in the classroom)
- Highlighter
- Pen/pencils
- Chromebook
- Headphones

Criteria for grading:

Grades are based on total points earned per quarter. Grades will be the percentage of total points earned, out of the total possible points. Students' grades will reflect their participation and performance on projects, quizzes, tests, and homework assignments. Assessments and project make up 65% of the grade. All other assignments count for 35% of the grade.

Opportunities for Enrichment:

Books

- Various historical fiction and non-fiction books are available for students to read in our "Book Corner."

Students may borrow a book and expand on their current understanding of the topics being covered. Students can complete a book report that compares the non-fiction book's storyline to the actual events in history, as well as complete a report for the non-fiction book.

Outline developed by: Social Studies Department

Date: Spring 2016