

DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Individuals and Societies

GRADE: 8

Offered: Full Year

Type of Course: Required

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is the second year of a two year survey course focusing on American History. The Social Studies Skills taught in Grade 7 are expanded upon in Grade 8. The course begins with the study of the causes of the Civil War and concludes with the changing nature of the American people from World War II to the present. Our history is explored chronologically from the 1850's to the present. Connections are made between the historical periods being studied and the nation and world we live in today. Two areas of inquiry for the school year are *Global interaction and the exchange of ideas, goods, and services have had both negative and positive consequences for humans and the natural environment, all dependent upon one's perspective* and *Nations Have Global Interactions That Can Lead to Conflict, Cooperation And The Need For A Lasting Peace.*

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:

By June of this year, students in this class will be able to:

- Comprehend the growth of the United States as an industrialized nation, as a world power and as a nation with an ongoing progressive reform movement.
- Develop a geographic knowledge of the United States and of the areas of the world in which the United States has historically been involved.
- Appreciate the national political process and Constitutional changes.
- Evaluate evidence through exposure to Primary Sources.
- Write an effective "Document Based Question" (DBQ) Essay.
- Successfully answer Multiple Choice Questions based on the type encountered on the Grade 11 U.S. History Regents Examination.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS:

By the end of the year, students will be able to read and comprehend literature (Informational Texts, History/Social Science Texts) at the high end of the Grades 6-8 Text Complexity Band independently and proficiently.

MATERIALS:

Textbook: American Nation published by Prentice Hall (Left At Home).

Binder: The students must maintain their work in a standard 2 Inch three ring binder including sections for Class Work/Class Notes, Returned Textbook Assignments, Returned Tests/Quizzes/Review Packets and Extra Paper.

Supplies: Blue or Black Pens and Pencils

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT:

15% of Final Quarterly Average = Homework

15% of Final Quarterly Average = Classwork/Group Work/Team Competitions/Extra Credit Opportunities/Oral Presentations

70% of Final Quarterly Average = TEST/Project Grades/Class Participation Grade

FINAL EXAMINATION:

This Exam Is Modeled After The Grade 8 New York State Social Studies Assessment And The Grade 11 Regents Examination. This Examination Will Be Counted As Two (2) 4th Quarter Test Grades.

STUDENT/PARENT RESOURCES:

1) Avalon Project: Documents In Law, History, And Diplomacy:

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/>

2) Freedom: A History of US:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus/>

3) Official Ellis Island Website:

<http://www.ellisland.org/>

4) 100 Essential U.S Historical Documents:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/content.php?flash=old&page=milestone>

5) History Channel:

http://www.history.com/shows/classroom?HPF_rid=6801684&HPF_mid=3493_T1Url11

6) Eyewitness to History:

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/19frm.htm>

7) Digital History:

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>