

U.S. History 8

Mr. Tripodi
tripodij@bsd.k12.pa.us
www.mrtripodi.org

DESCRIPTION

This course will stretch from the earliest settlers in North America through the Civil War and the early 1900s. Students will take a whirlwind journey, from the earliest European influences in North America to the clash of beliefs that tore our nation apart.

CONTENT

Throughout this class, students will consider the following:

- Why did European explorers cross the ocean to conquer native North Americans, instead of the other way around?
- What made millions of British colonists angry enough with their mother country to declare independence?
- What were the challenges that faced Americans as they built a new nation?
- How did the U.S. establish itself as a world power, eventually occupying the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific?
- How was race-based slavery in the U.S. different than in any other country in the history of the world?
- What led half the nation to declare *their own* independence, and eventually declare war on the other half?
- *How did decisions made hundreds of years ago affect the world we live in today?*

PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

History:

- 8.1.8: Historical analysis and skills development
- 8.2.8: Pennsylvania history
- 8.3.8: United States history
- 8.4.8: World history

Geography:

- 7.1.8: Geographic literacy
- 7.2.8: Physical characteristics of places, regions
- 7.3.8: Human characteristics of places, regions
- 7.4.8: Interactions between people, places

Civics and government:

- 5.1.8: Principles and documents of government
- 5.3.8: How government works

RESOURCES

Primary textbook: *Call to Freedom*; Holt, Reinhart, and Winston

Class website: <http://www.mrtripodi.org>

Textbook website: <http://go.hrw.com/gopages/ss-ah.html>

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- **Folder or binder:** Students will receive many handouts, notetakers, supplemental readings, and content guides. It is the student's responsibility to collect these materials, and organize them as they see fit.
- **Pen or pencil:** Blue, black, or gray ink/lead only, please.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

1. **Homework and in-class assignments are** never “busy work.” Consequently, everything assigned is chosen specifically to introduce or reinforce key ideas. A student’s success hinges on completing homework and in-class work, and both should be taken quite seriously.
2. **Quizzes** are given at least once every two weeks, usually at 25 points each. Occasionally one will be unannounced. It is the student’s responsibility to stay on top of the material.
3. **Tests** will be given at the end of each unit – roughly once every three weeks. Each test will be worth at least 100 points. A cumulative **final exam** will be given at the end of each semester.
4. **Projects** are assigned once per grading period, and offer every student an opportunity to showcase his or her individual skills and creativity. Each project will be explained in depth upon assignment.

LATE WORK

I accept late work only until the Friday after which it is assigned. No late work will be accepted once the weekend has passed. Credit given for late work is half of what an on-time assignment would have been graded. *Homework submitted later the same day – or later in the class – is considered late.*

GRADING

According to district policies: A: 100-92%, B: 91-83%, C: 82-74%, D: 73-65%, E: below 65%. A 91.5% will be rounded to 92%. A 91.4% will be rounded to 91%.

CLASSROLL.COM

Assignments for each week will be noted online by the first school day of the week. Student grades will be updated online as soon as possible, depending on the length of the assignment.

Please monitor Classroll.com regularly. If your child is absent, this will also give you the opportunity to check on the assignment for that day. If you have lost your user classroll.com ID or password, please contact the high school office for a replacement.

MRTRIPODI.ORG

Assignments and class documents are **updated daily** at the class website, www.mrtripodi.org. This is a great convenience for many students and parents, but it also means that “I didn’t know about the assignment” and “I lost my copy” are not acceptable excuses.

GUIDELINES/BEHAVIOR

We work bell-to-bell in my class. When the late bell rings, students should be quiet, in their seats, and ready to begin.

All facets of the Blackhawk Student Handbook apply to this class. Classroom expectations include promptness, readiness to work, and respect for self, for others, and for the learning environment. In short, students should adhere to Blackhawk’s Expect/Respect policy.

CONTACT

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You may reach me by telephone at 724-846-9600 or by email at tripodij@bsd.k12.pa.us