

# U.S. History

Mr. Rich Olivarez

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## **Course Welcome/Intro**

Welcome to 8th grade U.S. History. United States History is a course required for all 8th grade students. The course concentrates on the study of the main events of United States History from the Pre-Colonial period to the Civil War. We will also learn about the United States Constitution.

## **Required Course Materials**

Textbook / E-Book: Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States Early Years

Chromebook: Charged Chromebooks are to be brought to class on a daily basis. If a student does not bring his or her Chromebook, the student is expected to continue participating in class and complete all class work.

Black or blue pen, pencil, Color pencils, tissue paper, notebook, two colors highlighters, glue sticks.

## **Classroom Expectations**

In order to demonstrate proficiency in course standards, students will need to:

1. Participate in class activities (take notes, contribute to group work, complete in-class tasks, ask questions, etc.)
2. Complete assigned homework as needed in order to practice and improve learning.
3. Use formative assessments to track learning progress and identify strengths and weaknesses.
4. Complete all assessments (formative and summative).
5. Adhere to policies established by the classroom, LMS, and school district u-46.

## **Student Evidence and Assessment**

- Assessments based on SBLA demonstrate that students have the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the class. Evidence of learning (summative) and evidence for learning (formative) include any artifact that indicates whether or not a student has achieved proficiency in a standard. This can occur through in-class work, formative events, and summative tests or projects.
- Standards-based rubrics will be used to determine students' level of proficiency, using the 0-4 scale based on set criteria.
- Rubrics will be distributed at the beginning of a unit of study and referred to throughout the learning progression for the purpose of providing feedback.
- Rubrics for the course can be found on the social studies website.

## **Score What does it mean?**

4 = Mastery Demonstrates the ability to apply extended thinking about the skills and knowledge of the standard.

3 = Proficient Demonstrates skills and knowledge of the standard

2 = Basic Demonstrates a basic understanding of the skills and knowledge of the standard.

1 = Below Basic Demonstrates a below basic understanding of the standard; may demonstrate gaps in skills and knowledge

0 = No Evidence There is no, or insufficient, evidence of learning to assess the standard at this time

NE = Not Evaluated This standard has not been evaluated at this time

**MAKEUP POLICY**

Summative assessments that are missed will be marked “missing” or “not evaluated” in the grade book until completed.

Students have five school attendance days to complete a missed assessment. Incomplete assessments result in a lack of evidence of student’s understanding and may cause a student to fail.

**REASSESSMENTS**

Students will have multiple assessment opportunities to demonstrate higher levels of achievement on any assessment that is used to determine an overall proficiency and grade. All formative assignments must be completed prior to reassessments. The opportunities may be initiated by the student, but always at the discretion of the teacher. Reassessments must be completed within two weeks of the original assessment.

**Other Classroom Policies**

Mr. Olivarez’s U.S. History class will follow the district u-46 ‘s policy on student cell phone usage.

**Communication**

Parents and Guardians, please feel free to contact me about any concerns you may have. To check your students progress, please check the Infinite Campus portal at the district website. History assignments can be found on “Google Classroom.” The best way to reach me is via e-mail or leave a message with the main office.

Thank You,

Mr. Olivarez  
8th Grade History

**School Name • 2019-2020**

Parent Signature Form

**Course Name**

**Teacher Name**

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Please share with your parents or guardians and have this signed and returned by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Students:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the syllabus and agree to bring my best attitude and effort to this class every day.

**Parents/Guardians:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the syllabus.

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian preferred language: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to be contacted? (You may select multiple methods)

\_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email

1. What is the best time of day to reach you by phone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Is there anything I should know about your student's learning process?