## Signal Mountain Middle High School David Poss

## 2016-2017 United States History 886-0880, ext. 325

Course Syllabus

## Textbook

Appleby, Joyce, Ph.D., Alan Brinkley, Ph.D., Albert Broussard, Ph.D., et al**.** *Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States.* Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill, 2014.

Course Description

The 8th Grade US History course examines an evolving American identity through key themes including, the role of religion in the making of the United States, the development of political institutions and their impact on national and regional policies, economic trends and transformations, the history of slavery and its legacies as well as various social reform movements and the evolution of American culture. The overarching design is a better understanding of the factors that led the nation from unification to separation through civil war and finally back to reunification.

Syllabus

The following serves as a guideline for class.

Freedom is the most important right our nation’s founders gave us – it is therefore critical to study the lessons learned during our struggles to acquire and maintain our freedom, since lessons that people learned years ago can benefit us today. All durations are approximate.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Basic Classroom Skills (1 week) | Slavery in America (2 weeks) |
| Colonialism (3 weeks) | The Civil War (3 weeks) |
| Development of a New Nation (3 weeks) | Reconstruction (2 weeks) |
| The Constitution and Foundation of the American Political System (4 weeks) | Westward Expansion after the Civil War (2 weeks) |
| Growth of the Young Nation (4 weeks) |  |
| United States on the World Stage (3 weeks) |  |
| Sectionalism (3 weeks) |  |

REQUIRED MATERIALS

In order to be prepared each day, you must bring the following items with you to class:

* Textbook
* Pencil, Black or Blue Pen and Colored Pencils
* History Interactive Notebook – This will be a ½ - 1” three-ring binder

Grading Policies

Quarter Grading

# Classwork/Homework 50%

(Homework actually makes up 10% of this category)

Major Assessments and Tests 50%

Final Grade Breakdown

# Semester One 50%

Semester Two 50%

TCAP Testing is averaged into the Semester Two grade as determined by HCDE

HCDE Grades are broken down as follows:

A = 100-93, B = 92-85, C = 84-75, D = 74-70, F = below 70

*Board Policy states that excessive unexcused absences can result in automatic failure.*

Assignments will be posted online via Managebac. Unless noted by the teacher, **ALL** assignments, notes, etc. will be put into the Interactive Notebook and will be checked periodically. Checks can be either summative or formative assessments. All assignments are due at the beginning of class or are considered “late.” Work turned in late will be marked down unless otherwise noted by the teacher. Per 8th Grade Team policy, “late” work is not accepted beyond 5 days after its due date. It is the **responsibility of the student** to turn this work in before the cutoff date.

Make-up Work

Work and assessment missed due to absence must be completed within five days of the return to school. It is the **responsibility of the student** to pursue make-up work or to plan for extra-curricular activities that may affect the performance of homework, classwork, assessment, or projects.

Electronic Devices

If at all possible, students are encouraged to bring a well-protected, wireless internet capable device (labeled with their name) to class each day (I have a few that can be loaned out each period.) This device should be placed on the top of the desk, face down, during class unless I specifically request it to be used.

If a student is found to be using it in a non-educational and/or inappropriate manner it will be subject to the school wide electronic device discipline policy. Additionally, depending on the severity, MRs, non-web based assignments or a discipline referral will be assigned to the student at the teacher’s discretion.

**Rules**

All official Hamilton County and SMMHS policies and procedures are to be observed.

**Please return to class by August 19, 2016**

**FILL OUT AND SIGN BELOW**

I have read and understand the guidelines and procedures for Mr. Poss’ 8th Grade US History class.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_