

Ms. Elorriaga

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies - United States History, 1865 - Present



### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The 8th grade social studies course explores the major events that shaped America from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day -- from Reconstruction and the nation's development as an industrial power during the post-Civil War era, through the political and social reform movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to the presidencies of George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump. Foreign policy will also be a major focus of the course as students examine the United States' emergence as a world power at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, involvement in two world wars, struggle with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Current events will be an ongoing component of the curriculum.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of this course are: -

- To provide students with basic knowledge of, and appreciation of the history of the United States, its basic principles and cultural heritage.
- To help students learn about the structure and function of government and to learn how to take on their roles as citizens as informed committed participants in our democracy.
- To develop students' skills: written and oral, analysis, synthesis interpretation of primary and secondary source materials, tables, graphs, maps and other visual representations and an awareness of cause-effect relationships.

### **TESTING:**

- 1) There will be at least two major tests each quarter at the end of each major unit of study.
- 2) Announced quizzes will also be given from time to time

### **GRADING:**

A student's grade in this course will be based on several factors: 1) participation/classwork; 2) homework; 3) long-term assignments and presentations; 4) notebook checks; 5) performance on tests and quizzes.

### **EXTRA HELP:**

After school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment

### **EMAIL:**

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