

**Century Middle School
Course Syllabus
2009-10**

Course Title: 8th Grade American History	Instructor Name: Janis Johnson
	Janis.Johnson @adams12.org
	http://century.adams12.org/johnson.htm
	720-972-3280
	I am available Periods 5 and 6 (1:52 – 3:45) Monday through Friday (except Wednesday) in Room F210. Email is my preferred mode of communication.
Course Description: A basic survey course offering of American History from Early Americans to the American civil War. Skills from other disciplines are incorporated. Students will use Cornell Notes, independent study and group work skills to accomplish tasks throughout the year.	

Essential Learning Standards/Content Covered <u>First</u> Trimester:	Approximate Dates/Timeline or Percent of Time Spent
Geography of United States Review/Skills Review	2 weeks
Early Americans	3 weeks
Exploration	2 weeks
District Common Assessment #1	Into Scholarsmart by November 20, 2009
Essential Learning Standards/Content Covered <u>Second</u> Trimester:	
Colonial America	6 weeks
Pre-Revolution and Revolutionary America	6 weeks
District Common Assessment #2	Into Scholarsmart by February 26, 2010
Essential Learning Standards/Content Covered <u>Third</u> Trimester:	
Constitution/Economics/Government	3 weeks
First Presidents	2 weeks
Westward Expansion	4 weeks
Pre-Civil War America	2 weeks
Civil War	5 weeks
District Common Assessment #3	Into Scholarsmart by May 14, 2010

Please send an electronic copy to Mr. Pohlit, Hard copy to Mrs. Miller, and post one to your teacher web page.

Grading Scale	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Grade Percentages/Weights	
Daily Work/Homework	20%
Projects/Assessments	80%

- Assessments and grading standards are applied consistently to students of similarly demonstrated ability.
- Assessments are based solely on demonstrated student progress and achievement of reasonable and clear standards.
- Students are encouraged to be engaged and motivated in the completion of their assignments.

Individual Grade Policy: Students are expected to turn in their daily work, homework and projects on the assigned due date. If a student is present when an assignment and the due date is given, they are still responsible for turning in the work on time, even if they have been absent. Late work is accepted with a 5% reduction each day for 5 days. After 5 days, the work will only be worth up to 50% of the total points. Students that have been absent have the number of days absent plus 1 day to turn in missed work, per district policy.

Group Grade Policy: Group work is based on each assignment and will differ from group assignment to group assignment. Students will receive a rubric, complete with expectation, roles, and how they will be graded. The failure of another student not to complete their part of a group project will not affect the grades of the other students in the group.

Student Expectations

Absence Policy: Students will have 1 day for every day absent plus one day to turn in work (School District Policy). It is the responsibility of the student to see Mrs. Johnson for any work missed during absences. If the student is going to be absent for an extended period of time, please alert the office and all core teachers and request work.

Tardy Policy: Students are expected to arrive to class on time prepared to learn. The following unexcused tardy policy will be in place:

- 1st tardy: Warning
- 2nd tardy: Citizenship notice and lunch detention.
- 3rd tardy: Office Referral

Late Work Policy: Please see Individual Grade Policy

- **Plagiarism/Cheating Policy:**

- 1st Offense – 50% grade reduction, written acknowledgement of infraction with written plan for better strategy to be signed by parents.
- 2nd Offense – 100% grade reduction, written acknowledgement of infraction, student informs parent/guardian of issue.
- 3rd Offense – Student conference with administrator and disciplinary action is taken.

- **General Guidelines:** Agendas will be used to communicate all assignments daily. Please start the year by routinely checking the agenda each night and discussing its contents with your student. Students are directed daily to write down the assignments at the beginning of each period. Students are expected to have their agendas with them at all times.

- **Other:** Students are expected to have 3-70 page spiral notebooks for the Interactive Notebook (one for each trimester). Daily assignments will be completed in this spiral and will always be kept in class.

Please send an electronic copy to Mr. Pohlit, Hard copy to Mrs. Miller, and post one to your teacher web page.

Acknowledgment of Receipt Form

Parents/Guardians,

Please share your preferred contact information before signing and returning this form to the classroom teacher.

Student Name (Please print)

Student E-mail Address

My preference for contact is:

By Email

By Phone

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address(s)

or

Phone Number(s)

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address(s)

or

Phone Number(s)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date