

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade American Studies I

## Course Syllabus

Mr. Owen

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(240) 236 – 5582



Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies! I am looking forward to having you in my class this year. Through historical and current events, we will be exploring American History. Our units include Geography & Colonization, Road to Independence, Confederation to Constitution, The New Republic, Age of Jackson, Expansion, Causes of the Civil War, Civil War, and Reconstruction.

We will be completing many activities to learn about the United States and its amazing history! We will not only learn basic information, but we will use that information to gain a greater depth of understanding.

### **Materials**

#### **Interactive Notebooks**

You must have your interactive notebook with you every day. You will put all papers, notes, warm-ups, and assignments in your folder/notebook. Notebooks will be used to study for quizzes and tests. In addition, occasional open note quizzes and tests may be given.

#### **Supplies**

You must bring your textbook, a book to read silently, a #2 pencil, scissors, a glue stick, a composition book, and colored pencils to class everyday

**Class Participation** Students are expected to participate positively and regularly in class discussions, group activities, role-playing and other simulations. Student participation is a very important and necessary element to help create an interesting class. It gives clear evidence that you are completing your assignments, and shows your understanding of the materials. Participation in class also helps you develop your thinking and communication skills. Positive class participation is always welcome in our class.

**Projects** Long and short-term projects will be assigned throughout the semester. Although some class time will be allocated to help guide students with their projects, students should be working independently on their projects at home as well. If a student is absent the day a project is due, the project is then due the first day the students returns to school. Project sheets that describe the requirements and due date will be given to explain the assignment in detail.

**Homework** Homework will be given Mon.-Thurs. and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Students are required to record their homework in their planner and complete assignments by the due date. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to acquire make-up assignments from me or another student in class. All homework assignments will be posted on my web site on a daily basis.

### OMS Late Homework Policy

Completed on Time	100% credit possible
One-Day Late	75% credit possible
Two Days Late	50% credit possible
Three Days Late	25% credit possible
Four Days Late	0 credit remaining

### Quizzes

Quizzes may be given at any time and are designed to help you study on a daily basis.

### Tests

You will always know about tests in advance so that you will be able to review the information and get help from me if you need it.

### Grading

Your grade in Social Studies will be based on the following:

<b>Tests/Class Project</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Classwork</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Homework</b>	<b>10%</b>

### Tutoring

Tutoring opportunities will be provided during the school day. I am also available before and after school if arrangements are made in advance.

### Absences

Class participation is important and is graded. When you are absent you miss valuable discussions and class activities. Check my Website and see if there is any work that you may be able to complete on the day of your absence. Otherwise, **it will be your responsibility** to find out from a classmate or me what you missed and what work needs to be completed in order for you to get caught up.

### Behavior Policy

Behavior that does not follow the school O.P.Y. (respect others, property, and yourself) policy will result in the following consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense - Verbal warning (s)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- Parent Contact
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- OPY slip #1 and parent contact
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense- OPY slip #2 and parent contact
- 5<sup>th</sup> offense - School detention
- 6<sup>th</sup> offense - Referral (depending on offense)

**Parents and students, contact is important! I will respond to your questions, comments, and/or concerns as promptly as possible!**

You can reach me by email at [alex.owen@fcps.org](mailto:alex.owen@fcps.org) or by phone at (240) 236 – 5582.

To access my website, go to <http://oms.sites.fcps.org/> ; hover over the word STAFF; hover over the department; and click on my name.

I will be updating grades on a regular basis and you will be able to check grades via Pinnacle. The web address is:

**<https://grades.fcps.org>**

*Oakdale Middle encourages parents to regularly check their students' grades on Pinnacle. The following list of codes is provided to help parents better understand the Pinnacle grading program.*

- *An "X" is issued to excuse work. (This neither hurts nor helps a student's grade.)*
- *A "Z" is used by teachers to let parents know that an assignment has never been turned in. (The "Z" counts as a zero in the student's grade in order to give an accurate reflection of what the grade will be if the assignment is never turned in.)*
- *An actual "0" in a grade book signifies that a student earned a zero on the assignment.*

**I know that we will have a wonderful experience studying American History together!**

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Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus.

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**I understand and will abide by the policies and expectations that Mr. Owen has presented to me.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature      (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature      (Date)

Please list all email addresses that you would like me to use to contact you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address #2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address #3