8th Grade American History I Course Syllabus

Instructors: Mrs. Erica Pagotto (8 Maroon) & Mr. John Stemler (8 White)

Contact times: 2:25 to 2:45 (For additional times, see the respective teams website)

Email: Mrs. Pagotto at [epagotto@lehighton.org](mailto:epagotto@lehighton.org) or Mr. Stemler at [jstemler@lehighton.org](mailto:jstemler@lehighton.org)

**Course Description**:

The eighth grade social studies course examines the past of the United States from the Jefferson Era to approximately 1900 while highlighting important events that occurred in Pennsylvania. In our studies through time, students will investigate the people, the events, and the ideas that shaped our country’s early growth as well as its struggles to endure through civil strife and social problems. Hopefully, students will see that the present has been shaped by the past and therefore history is important to learn.

**Course Goal and Objectives**:

The overall goal of this course with continued study at the high school is to develop an informed citizen who will contribute in a positive manner to the future of the local, state, national and global community. To fulfill this goal we will pursue the following underlying objectives:

A. Master basic facts of the past of the United States and the World.

B. Foster a love of studying history by imagining being part of the past.

C. Develop critical positions about historical people, events and ideas while maintaining an objective perspective of the past and present.

D. Develop thinking skills using maps, tables, and other tools of a historian.

E. Promote and improve our expression of ideas in oral and written form.

F. Develop our research skills both old-fashioned and modern.

**Topics to be covered (time permitting):**

1. History & Historians – tools, skills, and reasons used in and for the study of history

2. Key Concepts of the Washington and Adams Presidency (@ 1789 – 1800)

3. The Jefferson Era (The Revolution of 1800)

4. National and Regional Growth (America in the early 1800s)

5. The Age of Andrew Jackson – (A Changing Democracy for Everybody?) (1824-1840)

6. Manifest Destiny (Sea to Shining Sea) (1821-1853)

7. A New Spirit of Change (Reform Movements Over Time) (1830-1900)

8. The Nation Breaking Apart (Antebellum America) (1846-1861)

9. The American Civil War (A Turning Point) (1861-1865)

10. Reconstruction (A Healing?) (1865 - ???)

11 The Guilded Age (The Move To Economic Power) (1870s – 1900)

12. Growth in the West (1860-1900)

**Requirements and Determination of Grades**:

Students are to keep a neat notebook in which notes and class papers will be kept. Complete homework assignments on time and do their own work. All assignments are to be done with in blue or black ink or #2 pencil. If a student is absent they should find out the work missed and try to make it up in accordance with page 19 in the LAMS Planner.

Grades will not be calculated based solely on test scores. The grade will be weighed with consideration as follows: Tests and Major Projects - 60%; Homework - 20%; Quizzes - 10%; Selected Class Worksheets and Mini Projects - 10%.

The final class grade for the American History I course will be determined by the average of the four marking period grades.

**Basic Classroom Rules:**

1. Unless authorized by the teacher, all rules outlined in the student handbook are in effect including no chewing gum or candy in the classroom.

2. Come to class ready to learn, having textbook covered and homework completed on time.

3. Be courteous to others in the classroom including the teachers.

4. Respect the personal space and property of others.

5. Have an open mind and a positive attitude----History is FUN!!!

6. Teachers may handout a separate detailed Policy, Rules and Responsibility Handout.

**Consequences:**

1. Verbal warning and/or conference after class.

2. Writing Assignment.

3. Teacher detention and/or phone call to parents/guardians.

4. Team Conference.

5. Referral to the Administration.

**Websites:**

Mrs. Pagotto’s – websites.pdesas.org/elpagotto

Mr. Stemler’s – http://websites.pdesas.org/jstemler