

**American Cultures - II**  
**Eighth Grade**  
**Mr. Patrick W. Berzonski**

**Room:** 209  
**Availability:** 7:30 – 7:45  
7:50 – 8:34 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
1:44 – 2:26 (8<sup>th</sup>)  
By appointment  
**Phone:** 479 – 4014 (W)  
243 –1493 (C)  
**Email:**  
[patrick.berzonski@ctasd.org](mailto:patrick.berzonski@ctasd.org)

Eighth Grade American Cultures is designed to provide an in-depth study of our American heritage. Through the study of our past we will attempt to examine and relate themes, questions, and problems that confront Americans today. The course is designed to encourage the student to apply his/her mind to some important historical questions, examine critically how those questions were or were not resolved, and, hopefully, obtain a better sense of one's place in the historical process.

**I. Purpose:**

This class will survey the main course of American development from the opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to present day. An attempt will be made to cover all aspects of this progression (economic, cultural, political, and social), but the major emphasis in the course will be social. The material is combined into topics, lessons, and texts.

**II. Required Text:**

The text used in this course is Pearson's *American History*. The bulk of the information that they are presented with will come from this text. However, students will study other sources that may provide more in-depth investigation of a particular topic, or at least a varied point of view.

**III. Course Requirements:**

Throughout the school year students will be required to take tests, quizzes (oral and written), prepare homework assignments, complete various reading assignments, and participate to the best of their ability in all classroom activities. Efforts will be made to make your child a better writer and/or a better speaker through various activities within the classroom, as well. In addition, time is taken to help the students develop better study habits through the use of the library.

**IV. Extra Assistance and Grading:**

Students are encouraged to seek additional assistance whenever the need may arise. All efforts will be made to accommodate those with questions. Students are asked to set up a time that is convenient for both parties. Students and parents are reminded to ask immediately if any questions should come up... my door is always open. The grading for American Cultures is based upon district requirements that are listed on page 27 of the student handbook.