

AzSOC 8th Grade U.S. History

Class Syllabus for 2024/2025

Mr. Hummer

Thank you for choosing to take the 8th Grade U.S. History class. The purpose of this course is to strengthen your academic skills in reading and writing while also learning the 5 piece approach to learning that is generally called social studies. This class will focus on teaching history, geography, civics, economics and sociology (culture). These are the studies that make up social studies. Like most social studies classes, we will learn through a historical lens; focusing on important historical time periods in United States History. We will also focus heavily on citizenship and civic engagement in today's world and finish the year with a strong economics focus.

Contacting Me

If you need to contact me, feel free to email me at any time at robert.hummer@azsoc.org. It is important to remember that I am a full time teacher at a school with a full class load so I am not always able to answer quickly. However, I will be checking my email multiple times a day so please be patient for my response.

Office Hours

I will not be scheduling a weekly time for office hours. However, if there is a time where I am noticing that holding an office hours time would be beneficial then I might schedule one via Zoom. This will be listed as an announcement and will always be in the afternoon/evening. If there is ever an emergency situation where you will need to have a meeting 1 on 1, please email me with details and I will try to make something work for you.

Course Objectives

1. Upon completion of this course students will be able to investigate history through a civic and economic lens, understanding how each part helps shape the whole.
2. Upon completion of this course students will be able to outline the major events and people from the American Revolution, Civil War, and Civil Rights movement who shaped modern life in the United States.
3. Upon completion of this course students will have developed a much larger academic vocabulary that will help with comprehension of world topics in the future.
4. Upon completion of this course students will be able to make connections between historical and current issues as a base for implementing a change in society.
5. Upon completion of this course students will be able to explain the major aspects of economy and how it applies to their lives.

Course Structure

It is my desire to have this course be predictable for you so that you can know what to expect every week and become familiar with the various processes used throughout the year.

- Unit/Module Study: Our entire course will consist of 10 Modules. The modules vary in length depending on the topics being studied. You will find a detailed outline for the modules in the last pages of the syllabus. The modules are designed by topic.
- Readings/Videos/Podcasts: Due to the nature of online learning, all of your material will be given in the forms of readings, videos, and/or podcasts. Whether I create the materials or find them online, it is expected that you read/watch/listen to all materials given in the class. These materials will be what your quizzes and tests are based upon so make sure you check them out!
- Vocabulary: The most important part of all social studies learning is being able to understand and identify key vocabulary. In week 1 of every module, you will be assigned work on new vocabulary words with a quiz regarding that vocabulary on Friday. It is very important for you to stay up-to-date with your vocabulary assignments because knowing the vocabulary helps you understand the material better!
- Quizzes: There will be two quizzes assigned for each module. The first quiz will be given on the first Friday of each new unit of study and will be strictly related to the new vocabulary for the module. The second quiz will be more like a test on the entire module but the CANVAS program makes me call them all quizzes! You will also be given a Midterm Exam (Quiz) and a Final Exam (Quiz) at the end of each semester (December/May).
- Projects: There will be projects to complete for each module. The projects will be opportunities to dive deeper into the content for each module and create something to reflect that knowledge. Opportunities can be Google Slides, Jamboards, fake newspapers, videos, research papers, movie summaries, comic strips, and more. These will be completed in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of each module.
- Discussion: Every week there will be a new topic posted for discussion. You will be required to post in the discussion board topic every week for a grade; directions will be posted in each week's discussion question. Discussion board participation must be completed by Thursday every week.
- Final Paper: The final assignment for 8th Grade U.S. History will be a five paragraph essay. For this essay, you will choose the three most important things you learned in the class and why those things are important for everyone to know today. Once we begin working in the final two modules, you will work on specific assignments to help you prepare for this assignment.
- Extra Credit: Extra credit assignments can be assigned in any situation at any time by the teacher until the final assignment of each module is turned in. After that the module is considered "closed" and it is time to move on to the next. If you find yourself needing extra credit, please email me and ask for it.

Grading Policy

Every assignment will be given a specific point total. Those grades will all go into one category to make up the overall grade. Larger assignments (Quizzes) will contain more points than smaller ones (Discussion Board). Completing all assignments will therefore contribute to the highest accumulation of a grade. The scale for grades is as follows:

A - 90-100%

B - 80-89%

C - 70-79%

D - 60-69%

F - 0-59%

** If a student is attending a school with different grading criteria, the criteria for that school will be applied to the class. For instance, if a school does not have letter D grades, then letter D grades will not be available for this course.

Late Work Policy

All assignments are expected to be turned in on the due date given to them. All work for each module must be completed by the end of the module unless otherwise arranged with the teacher. Once the assignment due date has passed, points will be deducted from the final grade for the assignment each day that it is late. The only exceptions are in the case that you know you will be missing time and notify me ahead of time or if an emergency has occurred. Please email any concerns in advance of days that you might not be able to turn in items so that I know to properly grade them or wait if you have an excused absence (like vacation, sickness, or another reason to not be able to work online). Also, if you are asking for extensions on assignments often, those extensions will begin to be denied unless you have a specific IEP or 504 plan to accommodate those requests (which I will know at the beginning of classes).

Code of Conduct

You are expected at all times to show respect to other students and the teacher. This includes all commenting on discussion boards and while doing any group work projects that are assigned. Any improper conduct will be corrected with a warning and a plan created for future negative interactions. Parents and school liaisons will be contacted every time you interact in a negative way with others. I want to encourage you to keep our class judgment free especially because we will be learning about current topics that many adults don't even discuss without name calling. Treat people well and everything will be great!

Academic Integrity

Due to this course being completely online, it is important to practice the highest levels of academic honesty and integrity in your work. **This means that it is not appropriate to copy/paste information from websites or reading directly into your work.** As often as possible, you should make sure that you include websites where you find your information

and give credit for the work other people have done. I will make sure to contact you when I see blatant plagiarism (copying) and will give you direction for how to fix it. After two warnings you will begin losing credit for your work so be careful to follow when I offer redirection.

Resource Integrity

This course is under constant construction! As I gather resources, watch videos, listen to podcasts and find readings on the internet in building this course, please understand that sometimes things change! Please report any broken links or missing information that you may come across. If you also have questions about resources that I have assigned please send me an email so I may help as quickly as possible. Remember also that historical pictures and information can have some difficult material to deal with (death, disease, destruction); please ask questions and talk to trusted adults about any material that you are having a hard time with.

Civics Test

The state of Arizona requires all students to take a Civics test in order to graduate high school. A passing score is considered a 60% or above. In this course, you will have a 2 week window where you will have time to study for the Civics test and then take the Civics test. If you pass (and I think you will), that is one less graduation requirement for you to worry about for your 4 high school years. That is pretty cool, right?

Course Guide and Key Vocabulary

Please refer to this guide often because it contains the week by week plan for completing the course. All assignments will be accessed in CANVAS and available to view there but this gives you an idea of when/what to expect. The dates included are tentative and will change due to the time you enter the course and your school's start time.

1. Module 1: Introduction to Social Studies
 - a. This module is an introduction to the 5 main areas of study in social studies. We will be looking at basic information about civics, geography, economics, culture and history to prepare ourselves for the information to come over the rest of the school year. Most of this vocabulary will be used constantly throughout the year so it is very important to learn. We will also be determining the differences between primary and secondary sources and the importance of each.
 - b. 2 weeks in length.
 - c. Key Vocabulary: Culture, language, traditions, values/morals, primary source, secondary source, geography, civics, economics, sociology.
 - d. Tentative Assignments
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz
 - iii. 2 Discussion Board Posts
 - iv. 1 Project will be completed
 - v. Module Quiz

2. Module 2: Geography Basics

- a. This module is an introductory look into the science of geography. We will be learning some key vocabulary and basic concepts about the importance of geography. No history or social studies course is without the use of maps and environmental study so learning about geography is critical to understanding historical information and it is also practical for everyday use!
- b. 2 weeks in length.
- c. Key Vocabulary: Compass rose, absolute location, relative location, key, scale, movement, region, continent, country, state, county, local government.
- d. Tentative Assignments
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz
 - iii. 2 Discussion Board Posts
 - iv. 1 Project 1
 - v. Module Quiz

3. Module 3: The American Revolution

- a. This module focuses on the causes of the American Revolution. Then we will take a close look at the Declaration of Independence including the philosophical roots of the document. Finally we will look at the events of the war and the resulting British withdrawal. This is important background information to learn before we begin learning about the creation of the U.S. Constitution and how it came to be created.
- b. 4 weeks in length
- c. Key Vocabulary: Tea Act, Stamp Act, Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, Intolerable Acts, Declaration of Independence, Patriot, Loyalist, representation, tax, monarchy, boycott, rebellion, liberty.
- d. Tentative Assignments
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz
 - iii. 4 Discussion Board Posts
 - iv. 3 Projects
 - v. Module Quiz

4. Module 4: The United States Constitution

- a. This module focuses on the philosophy, formation and ratification of the Constitution as the form of government within the United States. We will explore the separation of powers, jobs of the branches, legislative processes and how those first 20 years after the Constitution was adopted and ended up shaping how the Constitution is viewed including the formation of political parties.
- b. 6 weeks in length.

- c. Key Vocabulary: Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Bill of Rights, Preamble, Amendment, James Madison, Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, Alexander Hamilton, Federalists, Anti-Federalists, George Washington, Popular Sovereignty, Great Compromise, 3/5 Compromise, Social Contract, Natural Law, Amend, Ratify, Trial, Political Parties.
 - d. Tentative assignments
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz
 - iii. 6 Discussion Board Posts
 - iv. 5 Projects
 - v. Module Quiz - This is a big one and will take some extra time!
 - vi. Other assignments will be posted in CANVAS, make sure to keep track.
5. Module 5: Elections and Citizenship
- a. This module focuses on elections. We will be looking at election processes, differences and dates. We will also look at specific voting reforms including the 26th amendment. Toward the end of the module we will learn about the legislative process involved in voting and venture into modern issues recalling this year's election.
 - b. 2 weeks in length
 - c. Key Vocabulary: Electoral College, Gerrymandering, initiative, referendum, recall, reform, Amendment 26, petition, Naturalization
 - d. Tentative Due Dates
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz.
 - iii. 2 Discussion Board Posts.
 - iv. 1 Project.
 - v. Module Quiz due by Midnight Sunday December 13.
 - vi. Other assignments will be posted in CANVAS, make sure to keep track.
6. Module 6: The Civil War and Reconstruction
- a. This module focuses on the events and legislation that led to the American Civil War as well as the system of slavery that existed in America. We will also look at major actions of the war including major battles and individuals. We will investigate the end of the war and assassination of the president. The module will wrap up with a look at Reconstruction in the South, Civil Rights Amendments passed during Reconstruction and the eventual rise of segregation in the South.
 - b. 7 weeks in length
 - c. Key Vocabulary: *This module is so large we are going to have 2 different vocabulary assignments and quizzes.
 - i. Vocabulary List #1 - Triangular Trade, cotton gin, plantation, Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, Abolitionist, Popular Sovereignty, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, Uncle Tom's Cabin,

Kansas-Nebraska Act, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Fort Sumter, 1st Battle of Bull Run, Robert E. Lee, Battle of Antietam, Battle of Gettysburg.

- ii. Vocabulary List #2 - Appomattox Courthouse, John Wilkes Booth, Andrew Johnson, Reconstruction, Radical Republicans, 13th Amendment, 14th Amendment, 15th Amendment, Ulysses S. Grant, Freedmen's Bureau, Ku Klux Klan, Poll Tax, Literacy Test, Black Codes, Grandfather Clause, Segregation.

d. Tentative Assignments

- i. 2 Vocabulary assignments
- ii. 2 Vocabulary quizzes
- iii. 4 Discussion Board Posts
- iv. 5 Projects
- v. Module Quiz - This is another long quiz so you will need time to get this one completed.

7. Module 7: Civil Rights

- a. This module focuses on the history of segregation laws in the United States and the Civil Rights Movement that emerged to push back against those laws. We will be learning about impactful individuals and events as well as the legislation and laws that helped create change to segregation in America. We will also take time to discuss civil disobedience and discuss issues with current examples to apply that understanding.
- b. 4 weeks in length
- c. Key Vocabulary: Jim Crow Laws, Literacy Test, Poll Tax, Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Montgomery Bus Boycott, segregation, desegregation, Cesar Chavez, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, Civil Disobedience.
- d. Tentative Due Dates
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz
 - iii. 4 Discussion Board Posts..
 - iv. 3 Projects
 - v. Module Quiz

8. Module 8: Introduction to Economics

- a. This module focuses on the foundations and principles of Economics. We will be learning about concepts of economics, the structure of a market economy and finish with investments and the Stock Market.
- b. 3 weeks in length
- c. Key Vocabulary: Law of Supply and Demand, labor, wages, scarcity, resources, specialization, higher education, vocational training, factors of production, Stock

Market, Capitalism, inflation, deflation, public vs private, unemployment, stocks/shares.

- d. Tentative Assignment
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz
 - iii. 3 Discussion Board Posts
 - iv. 2 Projects
 - v. Module Quiz
9. Module 9: Introduction to Personal Finance
- a. This module focuses on the concepts of economics such as saving, credit, debt, spending decisions, interest rate of return, types of investments and returns, insurance and budgets. We will also investigate the relationship between education, income, and job opportunities.
 - b. 2 weeks in length
 - c. Key Vocabulary: Savings, credit, checking, debt, income, interest rate, return, investment, insurance, budget, investment portfolio.
 - d. Tentative Due Dates
 - i. Vocabulary assignment
 - ii. Vocabulary quiz
 - iii. 2 Discussion Board Posts
 - iv. 1 Project
 - v. Module Quiz
10. Module 10: Current Events
- a. This module is going to be very different from the rest. The students will be diving into current events both globally and domestically. They will be given quick directions on Monday and have two assignments on current events due on Wednesday and Friday.
 - b. 1 week in length
 - c. Tentative Assignment
 - i. Current Event Assignment 1 - Wednesday, May 12.
 - ii. Current Event Assignment 2 - Friday, May 14..

*All holidays and school breaks will be aligned with this course and the student's regular school breaks. No work will be assigned during those breaks.

**There will be a Mid-Term Assignment to be completed the week before Winter Break. The assignment will be posted and due in the same week.

***There will be a Final Exam. The Final Exam will be compiled of questions from the second semester of information.