

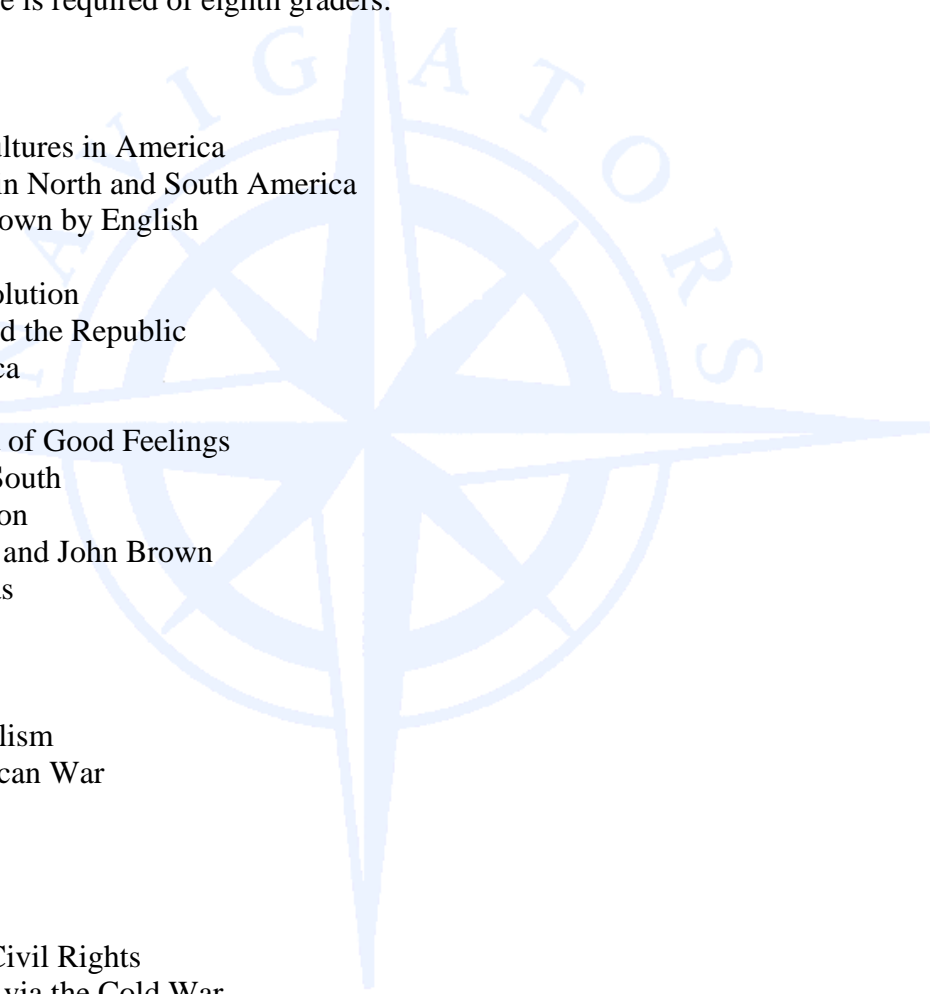
**Department:** History

**Course Name:** American History

**Course Description:**

This course is a survey of topics in American history, and is designed to prepare students to write, think, and analyze historically. In this course, students will examine the political, social and economic events that define America's history. Our journey commences with the migration to North America during the pre-historic period and we conclude our studies in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students learn about the Founders and the two opposing views of American democracy. Topics included in our studies will be resistance against Great Britain, the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congresses, the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution. Special attention will be given to the system of checks and balances, along with a focus on the Bill of Rights, in the context of chronological-based learning. This course is required of eighth graders.

**Content:**



Age of Discovery  
Native American cultures in America  
Spanish influences in North and South America  
Founding of Jamestown by English  
Early America  
The American Revolution  
The Constitution and the Republic  
Jeffersonian America  
War of 1812  
Monroe and the Era of Good Feelings  
The North and the South  
Slavery and Abolition  
Frederick Douglass and John Brown  
Lincoln and Douglas  
Civil War  
Reconstruction  
The Gilded Age  
The Age of Imperialism  
The Spanish-American War  
World War I  
The Roaring 20s  
Great Depression  
World War II  
African American Civil Rights  
Korea and Vietnam via the Cold War  
9-11  
Terrorism

**Skills:**

Essay writing using primary sources  
Analyze maps, charts, pictures, and graphs  
Strengthen oral communication skills via class discussions, and oral presentations  
Develop and refine Socratic questioning and reasoning  
Develop basic research skills using library and Internet sources

Refine research skills using primary source material, including literature and archaeological evidence  
Strengthen basic study skills, including vocabulary acquisition, note-taking, and outlining  
Use technology (Notability, iMovie, etc.) to complete assignments and projects  
Compare and contrast various historical periods and cultural topics

**Text and Materials:**

United States History, (Holt-McDougal, Copyright 2012)

A free etext version is provided

Teacher One Stop support materials

PBS and the American Experience

Additional secondary sources

[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

[www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org)

[www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

[www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)

**Methods of Instruction:**

Discussion

Lecture

PBS video

Essay writing

Written homework

Class presentations

Field trips as allowed

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Tests

Quizzes

Essay Writing

Homework

Class participation

VFW Writing Contest

