

Syllabus
8th Grade US History
www.mrdowner.com

2011–12 School Year

- **Textbook:** Creating America; Publisher: McDougal Littell. Students are **required** to bring their textbook everyday to class.
- **Equipment:** Students must be prepared with the following equipment in class every day.

Shopping List

- **Each student will need a spiral notebook college rule (minimum 70 pages). A notebook will be needed when a new semester begins.**
- **Pencils and blue or black pens**
- **A glue stick**
- **Colored pencils**
- **Sticky notes (Post-it notes)**

Requested Donations:

The following items are frequently used during the year. Classroom donations are greatly appreciated and are by no means required. If you should have extras of the following items and are willing, please have students bring them in for our use. These items make the year run more smoothly and will benefit all students. Donated items will be accepted throughout the year.

1. Tissue (Kleenex)
2. 8 ½ x 14 (legal size) paper. (This is what we use for projects and graphic organizers, etc.)
3. Reams of printer / copy paper
4. Glue sticks

- **Homework:** Homework consists of work that is assigned in class that is not finished for that day. Assignments that are to be collected the following day are expected to be finished outside of class time (at home).
- **Absences:** It is the responsibility of the student to get any work when absent. Use the website to see a list of assignments that were missed.
- **Website:** www.mrdowner.com The class website will be updated each day (sometimes every other day) with assignment information. **Parents can also get to the teacher's gradebook to view their child's grade on class assignments as well as the overall grade to that point in the year.**

Classroom Conduct / Discipline policy

- **Discipline Ladder:** The discipline ladder is a hierarchy of actions that will be taken in the event that a student is **disruptive to the learning environment** in class.
 1. Students receive a verbal warning.
 2. Teacher assigned after school detention (30 Min)
 3. Teacher assigned after school detention (1 Hour)
 4. Administrative referral on each offense thereafter.
 5. Administrator assigned full day of ISS and / or possible suspension

- **Tardiness:** Being late to class is absolutely unacceptable. Students should not count on the bell ringing to start class. Class begins when students enter class. The second tardy will result in after school detention.
DO NOT BE LATE TO CLASS!!

*****The Most Important Feature of the Class*****

- **Classroom Conduct:** No student has the right to interfere with the learning process of another student. Everyone including the teacher will treat and be treated with respect.
 - Put downs, and purposely hurtful comments will not be tolerated
 - No one will be allowed to interfere with the learning process of others
 - Poor behavior will result in immediate parent contact and detention.

Grading Policy

The following is a rubric that describes how students' daily assignments, like homework, daily writing assignments, textbook questions will be evaluated on the following scale. This might change as the year progresses and the teacher modifies the course to meet student needs or with certain assignments.