

CENTER JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Course Outline
United States History**

Revised: September 2016

Grade Level: 8

Text: McDougal-Littell: Creating America: A History of the United States, Beginnings through World War I

Grading: weighted A-F

60% assessments

30% assignments/participation

10% other

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The eighth grade middle school social science program emphasizes individual and active learning. Students in this course will begin looking into United State history from the founding of the colonies in the early 1600's through Industrialization. California State Standards are covered in the text. Additional topics and further clarification of state standards occur in class through various activities. Students will also discuss current events, their relationship to United States History, and how they relate to past and present experiences.

SUBJECT AREA CONTENT STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

See: www.cde.ca.gov/standards/history/grade8.html

The California State Standards for Grade 8 History-Social Science are covered through the study of the following subject areas:

- Making connections to the past
- Founding of the American Nation
- Causes, events, and consequences of the American Revolution
- Development of Constitutional Democracy
- Principles of the US Constitution
- Powers of the Federal Government
- Early US foreign policy
- Divergent paths of the American people from the north, south, east, and west
- Abolition of slavery
- Causes, events, and consequences of the American Civil War
- Causes, events, and consequences of Reconstruction
- American Economy after the Civil War
- Rise of Industrialism

General Goals/Purposes:

Students in this course will understand and discuss events in United States history from the founding of the colonies through Industrialization. Students will have covered the state standards and can build on the foundation that has been laid in 8th grade when they reach high school.

Students will read chapters from the McDougal Littell book, Creating America. Students will also do weekly, guided readings using a variety of primary and secondary sources and other articles the teacher finds. Students may be required to do outside reading to enhance their understanding of the time period being studied.

Students will be required to do homework, and will also be required to write during class activities.

Students will also be required to give oral presentations and open discuss guided readings, multimedia presentations, lectures, and will work collaboratively with other students.

Units of Instruction

Semester One

Chapter 3 – The English Establish 13 Colonies

1585-1732 Standards addressed: 7.11.3, 8.2.1, 8.7.1

English colonization of North America and the leading Individuals who took part in settling the colonies. Differentiates among the three major areas of settlement on the east coast.

Chapter 4 – The Colonies Develop

1700-1753 Standards addressed: 8.6.1, 8.7.1, 8.7.2, 8.7.3, 8.7.4, 8.10.2

This unit examines the development of the English colonies into four distinct regions: New England, the Middle Colonies, the South, and the Backcountry. Also discusses the influence of religion on the early colonies and the increasing economic dependence on slavery in the South

Chapter 5 – Beginnings of an American Identity

1689-1763 Standards addressed: 8.1.1, 8.1.4, 8.2.1, 8.3.7, 8.6.5

This unit explores the social and economic classes developing in the colonies as well as the new religious and philosophical movements. It also describes the major war that occurred between Britain and France over the settlement of Western lands.

Chapter 6 – The Road to Revolution

1763-1776 Standards addressed: 8.1, 8.1.2

This unit identifies the causes of tension between the British Government and the colonists in the years 1763-1776. Explains issues and events leading up to the declaration of independence from Britain. Also describes roles played by significant individuals.

Chapter 7 – The American Revolution

1776-1783 Standards addressed: 8.1, 8.1.3, 8.1.4, 8.4.3, 8.6.4

This unit describes the battles, people, strategies, and hardships involved in fighting the American Revolution. Also discusses the aftermath of the war and how the newly independent United States will govern itself.

Chapter 8 – Confederation to Constitution

1776-1791 Standards addressed: 8.1.4, 8.2.3, 8.2.4, 8.2.5, 8.3.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 8.3.5, 8.8.2, 8.9.2, 8.9.3

This unit describes the development of the US Government from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution. It focuses on the debate between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists over ratification of a Bill of Rights.

THE CONSTITUTION

Standards addressed: 8.3.4, 8.3.5, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.4.3, 8.3.5, 8.3.7, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.5.2, 8.5.3, 8.10.3

Students will study the full text of the Constitution of the United States. Discusses underlying principles of the United States Constitution.

Semester Two

Chapter 9 – Launching a New Republic

1789-1800 Standards addressed: 8.3.4, 8.3.5, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.4.3, 8.3.5, 8.3.7, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.5.2, 8.5.3, 8.10.3

This unit discusses Washington's presidency and the difficulties of interpreting the Constitution. It also describes expansion into the Northwest Territory, problems in foreign policy, and the development of political parties during Adams administration.

Chapter 10 – The Jefferson Era

1800-1816 Standards addressed: 8.3.4, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.4.3, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.5.3, 8.8.2, 8.8.4

This unit describes Thomas Jefferson's presidency, his philosophy of government, and the Louisiana Purchase. It also describes problems with foreign affairs and the war of 1812.

Chapter 11 – National and Regional Growth

1800-1844 Standards addressed: 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.6.1, 8.6.2, 8.7.1, 8.7.2, 8.9.6, 8.10.2, 8.12.1

Describes the early years of the Industrial Revolution in the North and the cotton boom and spread of slavery in the South. Discusses the increase in sectionalism and efforts to resolve the conflict over slavery with the Missouri Compromise.

Chapter 12 – The Age of Jackson

1824-1840 Standards addressed: 8.2.7, 8.3.6, 8.4.3, 8.8.1, 8.8.2, 8.9.5, 8.10.1, 8.10.2, 8.12.2, 8.12.3

The presidency of Andrew Jackson and the concept of Jacksonian Democracy. Also covers Jackson's policies on Native Americans, the national bank, and state's rights.

Chapter 13 – Manifest Destiny

1810-1853 Standards addressed: 8.5.2, 8.8.2, 8.8.3, 8.8.5, 8.8.6

Westward migration of the American people and the national belief in Manifest Destiny. Describes the Texas Revolution, the War with Mexico, and the California Gold Rush.

Chapter 14 – A New Spirit of Change

1820-1860 Standards addressed: 8.2.7, 8.4.4, 8.6.3-7, 8.7.4, 8.9.1, 8.9., .8.12.1, 8.12.5

The surge of immigration to the United States before 1860 and its effects on the population and culture. Also covers new trends in art, literature, reform movements, women's rights, and abolitionism

Chapter 15 – The Nation Breaking Apart

1846-1861 Standards addressed: 8.7.1, 8.7.2, 8.9.4-6, 8.10.1, 8.10.2, 8.10.4

The growing hostility between the North and South over slavery, especially in its new territories West. Also covers how the conflict dominated national politics, culminating in the secession of the South after the election of Abraham Lincoln.

Chapter 16 – The Civil War Begins

1861-1862 Standards addressed: 8.10.2-7

The start of the Civil War and its early battles. Examines the horrible conditions of warfare, and the increase in casualties resulting from new weapons.

Chapter 17 – The Tide of War Turns

1863-1865 Standards addressed: 8.10.4-7, 8.12.1, 8.12.3

The later stages of the Civil War, its terrible loss of life and eventual Union victory. Also describes the war's widespread effects on American society and the assassination of President Lincoln

Chapter 18 – Reconstruction

1865-1877 Standards addressed: 8.11.1-8.11.5

Focus on the economic and political effects of Reconstruction in the South, as well as the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. Discusses hardships faced by newly freed slaves.

Chapter 19 – Growth in the West

1860-1900 Standards addressed: 8.8.2, 8.8.3, 8.12.2, 8.12.1-5

The continuing migration of white settlers from the East to the West, at cost to Native Americans and people of Mexican heritage. Describes how Westerners challenged the dominant political parties by forming the Populist Party.

Chapter 20 – An Industrial Society

1860-1914 Standards addressed: 8.6.2, 8.12.1-9

The growth of industry, the expansion of the railroads, and the rise of big business in the late 1800's. Also describes workers' efforts to organize and demand better wages and shorter hours.