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| 8th Grade American History  2011 – 2012 Course Syllabus  **Please read this entire syllabus carefully.**  **Please keep this syllabus in your American History notebook all year.**  Ms. Robinson  **(614) 965-3006, Room 218**  **C:\Users\Kelly\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\RKDL1D95\MC900030724[1].wmf** [**kelly\_robinson@bigwalnut.k12.oh.us**](mailto:kelly_robinson@bigwalnut.k12.oh.us) |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** *from 1492 - 1870*

Welcome to American History! This year, we will begin our study with a brief look at Native Americans then move into a journey and exploration of early European settlers. We will study early Americans as they worked toward independence, battled through the American Revolution, and worked to create “A More Perfect Union.” In the second semester, we will travel into the 1800s and a time of further political development, expansion, and conflict. We will look at the efforts of many reformers, how great waves of immigration impacted our nation, and finally how the Civil War and Reconstruction Era have had a lasting effect on the country we live in today.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

You will be expected to bring the following materials to class *every* day:

* Proper writing utensil (black and blue ink pens, and pencils are acceptable)
* BWMS Student Agenda
* C:\Users\Kelly\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JCE3Z2L8\MC900329935[1].wmf1 inch or 1 ½ inch three ring binder (to be used as an American History notebook)
* Loose-leaf paper
* One subject spiral notebook (with holes) to be kept inside notebook (journal)

On *some* days, be prepared to have:

* History Alive textbook
* Highlighter(s)
* 3X 5 index cards (approximately 4 packs will supply you for the year)
* calculator

**DAILY PROCEDURE:**

As a general rule, students should enter the classroom at an appropriate noise level, take their seats, and begin following the “Beginning of Class Procedures” posted in the front of the room. The first 2 – 3 minutes of class will be allotted for student preparation, organization, and daily warm-ups.

**ABSENCES (and make-up work)**

Regular attendance to school is one of the most important keys to academic success. If you must be absent from school, it is **your responsibility** to obtain any notes, handouts, and homework that you missed. Handouts will be located in the classroom (“This Week’s Handouts”) for your use. You should see me individually to review missed lessons and to discuss make-up work. You will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete any work, but it will fall upon your memory, not mine, to submit these assignments.

**TARDIES**

It’s very simple….be on time! To be considered on time, you must be in your seat or in the classroom preparing for class (picking up handout, sharpening pencil, etc.) at the time of the bell. The following discipline for tardiness will be as follows:

1st tardy – warning (assuming the tardy is only a minute or two)

2nd tardy – lunch detention

3rd tardy – after school detention

4th and beyond – after school detention and referral to office

**HALL and RESTROOM PASSES**

In an attempt to maximize our instructional time together, students will not be permitted to return to their locker once class has begun. I strongly encourage you to get in the habit of checking your materials / HW at the beginning of each class period. Daily materials will be posted at the front of the classroom each day.

Each student will be given three restroom / water passes each nine weeks. Abuse of this privilege (as determined by the teacher) will result in loss of use.

**Students are permitted to bring water bottles (water only) to class.**

**PROPER HEADING**  **** First and last name

(Required on every assignment) Date

Period number

**HOMEWORK**

For maximum credit, all homework should be completed with a high quality and neat effort on or before the assigned due date. Homework will be accepted on time for possible full credit or up to one day late, for up to 50% credit. Any work not turned in after the one day late mark will be scored at a zero. (Absent work or extenuating circumstances may be the exception.)

**GRADING**

Students will have an opportunity to earn points through a variety of academic requirements. Your American History grade could be based on any of the following types of assignments:

Homework Notebook checks

Class work Projects / reports / other

Check-up quizzes (announced or unannounced) Unit assessments

Most assignments will be scored numerically following the BWMS grading scale (see agenda).

Some assignments will be given a ****grade based on the following:

The assignment was turned in on time.

The student followed the instructions of the assignment.

The student included their proper heading.

The assignment was complete with a good overall effort.

(****grades will be given a numeric value and added together at the end of each quarter.)

Students will be given a quarterly **Grade Record Sheet** for logging scores and averaging grades.

Grade Record Sheets will be collected and graded at the end of each nine weeks.

**Conduct, Civility, and Integrity**

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| *“No man is above the law and no man is below it;*  *nor do we ask any man’s permission when we require him to obey it.”*  Theodore Roosevelt |

**Conduct** - a mode or standard of personal behavior especially as based on [moral](http://www.merriam-webster.com/netdict/conduct) principles

**Civility** – courtesy, politeness; a polite act or expression

**Integrity** – “doing what is right because it is the right thing to do” ….Mr. Steve Mazzi, BW Superintendent

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| **From George Washington’s book:**  ***Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation***  (1) Every Action done in Company, ought to be with Some Sign of Respect, to those that are Present.  (2) Sleep not when others Speak, Sit not when others stand, Speak not when you Should hold your Peace, walk not on when others Stop.  (3) Mock not nor Jest at anything of Importance  C:\Users\Kelly\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JCE3Z2L8\MC900036449[1].wmf(4) Associate yourself with Men of good Quality if you Esteem your own Reputation; for tis better to be alone than in bad Company.  (5) Think before you Speak pronounce not imperfectly nor bring out your Words too hastily but orderly & distinctly. When Another Speaks be attentive your Self and disturb not the Audience if any hesitate in his Words help him not nor Prompt him without desired, Interrupt him not, nor Answer him till his Speech be ended.  (6) Be not apt to relate News if you know not the truth thereof. In Discoursing of things you Have heard Name not your Author always A Secret Discover not.  ***Our Constitution*** |

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Every group of people within an organized civilization must adhere to a set of laws in an effort to remain civilized, safe, and orderly. While personal freedom is certainly of high value in our American society, and always has been, our Founding Fathers also believed in establishing a core set of rules, ideally used to **govern ourselves**.

A class, in order to function, must expect that a minimum standard of conduct will be observed at all times by all students, and enforced by the teacher.

**All** school rules, as outlined in the BWMS Student Agenda, apply to our class. Please specifically review all rules regarding academic dishonesty / misconduct (cheating) and plagiarism. In addition, let me also emphasize dress code policy and strict adherence to rules regarding cell phones in class and other technological gadgets. If a student’s cell phone is seen or heard in class, he / she is subject to an after school detention. Finally, respect, active listening, and appropriate participation (raising hand, appropriate blurting, etc.) is expected at all times.

**CLASSROOM RULES I (AS A STUDENT) BELIEVE TO BE IMPORTANT:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A DIFFERENT (BUT GOOD) IDEA FROM MY NEIGHBOR / PARTNER:**

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE #1:**

Write a 1 -2 page written response on the **importance of laws / rules in a society**. To support your essay, include the following:

* Provide good thought and knowledge from what you have learned in the past about what our Founding Fathers were trying to accomplish when they first spelled out the rules for our government in the American Constitution (provide any detail you can about the U.S. Constitution, who wrote it, when, why, etc.).
* Paraphrase at least two of George Washington’s “Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior” (page 4 of syllabus) as examples of ways all people should demonstrate good **conduct**, **civility**, and **integrity** in a civilized society.
* Share other examples (besides laws for our country) of how rules and procedures help maintain order. Rely upon your own life experiences in social settings (rules at your home, rules for sports’ team, class rules, rules/conduct of Boy Scouts, etc.)
* Give examples and thoughts of what life / society would be like in a complete “state of nature” (no rules) and how this might jeopardize not only our personal safety, but also our freedom and well-being.

HOW WILL THIS BE GRADED?

* Organization – This means your written response should be written with a beginning, middle, and end. It should flow in a well-thought out, logical manner.
* Attention to detail – Show some effort and good thought.
* Take your time – Get off to a good start with attention to neatness, capitalization, punctuation, and use of paragraphing and complete sentences.

**Written Response and Typing Guidelines**

*(This list of guidelines applies to ALL written responses for the year.)*

**ALL WRITTEN RESPONSE ESSAYS SHOULD:**

* be written in paragraph form with complete sentences, capitalization, and correct punctuation (please do not use sentence fragments or run-on sentences);
* be written with proper writing utensil (pencil, black, or blue ink pen only);
* be written on loose-leaf paper (except classroom journal assignments);
* be written neatly with adequate spacing between words;
* be written to the best of the student’s ability.

**TYPING GUIDELINES: (permitted, but not required, on MOST written responses)**

* Print with black ink on white computer paper only.
* Use one inch side margins.
* Use normal font style (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial)
* Use 12 or 14 point font size, no bigger, no smaller
* **Double space between lines**
* Take responsibility for errors, typos, spelling, etc.
* Be professional and neat.

**OUR CONSTITUTION:**

As a class, we have agreed that the following rules / procedures are important for ensuring a successful academic school year in American History.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**WIKI INFORMATION:** Website: [www.wikispaces.com](http://www.wikispaces.com)

Username: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (use last name with first initial) ex: **robinsonk**

Password: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (at least 6 characters, pick one you can remember)

Our classroom email: [bigwalnuteagles@gmail.com](mailto:bigwalnuteagles@gmail.com) (we will only need this to set up accounts)

Our classroom WIKI:  **MsRobinsonsAmericanHistory** (you will need this for all classroom visits)

Once you have an account, (1) go to [www.wikispaces.com](http://www.wikispaces.com) (2) type in username, (3) password (4) go to our classroom WIKI (see above). You can use this for discussion, reviews, GRS, and to obtain other class information.