

Course Outline and Policies
8th Grade American Culture
Mr. Housch

All 8th grade students will study American Culture from Colonization through Reconstruction.

1st Marking Period

Colonial Settlement
A New Nation
Early Years of the Republic

2nd Marking Period

The Nation Expands
The Nation is Torn Apart and Reunites

Absence Policy— If you are absent from school, **YOU** are responsible for acquiring your assignments including downloading, printing out, and completing any possible handouts. You are also responsible for taking any online Pre-Tests and Tests.

You have TWO SCHOOL DAYS to complete the missed work for each day you were absent. If you know that you will be gone for an excused absence (such as on an “Educational Trip”) it is your responsibility to download these assignments, print them out, and complete them before you return to school. You must also complete any Pre-Tests or Tests while you are on your “Educational Trip.”

You are responsible for knowing your assignments, as they are posted weeks ahead of time, on Canvas and on the website mrhousch.com. On mrhousch.com the assignments can be accessed at the tab on the front page labeled “Assignments.”

The lessons and any items to download can also be accessed via the “Lessons” tab on the front page or from <http://mrhousch.com/lessons/>.

There is no excuse for coming to school and not knowing what your assignment is and/or what your homework is at any time.

Grading: Based on our school’s current grading scale, students will receive:

- 4-If the student has gone above and beyond in mastery of the material
- 3- If the student has mastered the material
- 2- If the student has acquired a basic understanding of the material
- 1- If the student has not yet acquired a basic understanding of this material

American Classics Tests-- Each student will complete four “American Classics” tests this year, which will demonstrate knowledge of some of the basic works of American history.

The test topics and due dates are as follows:

Friday, September 22, 2023- Write or recite from memory the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

Writing the Preamble in front of the teacher or reciting the Preamble from memory will give one a “3.”

Writing or reciting the Preamble in front of the teacher **and** writing at least two sentences in front of the teacher without any notes which correctly summarize/describe **each** of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution (Bill of Rights) will give one a “4.”

Friday, October 20, 2023- Write or recite from memory the first verse to “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Writing from memory the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner in front of the teacher or reciting/singing from memory the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner in front of the teacher will give one a “3.”

Writing from memory the four verses of the Star Spangled Banner in front of the teacher or reciting/singing from memory the four verses of the Star Spangled Banner in front of the teacher will give one a “4.”

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Wednesday, November 29, 2023- Correctly identify on a map the Fifty States of the United States and know how to spell them correctly.

Correctly Writing/Identifying/Spelling from memory on a blank map the 50 states will give one a “3.”

Perfectly Writing/Identifying/Spelling from memory on a blank map the 50 States the first time that you took the test, **and identifying all of the 50 State Capitals** will give one a “4.”

Monday, January 8, 2024- Recite/write from memory the first two paragraphs of the Gettysburg Address.

Writing the first two paragraph of the Gettysburg Address in front of the teacher or reciting the first two paragraphs of the Gettysburg Address from memory will give one a “3.”

Writing the complete Gettysburg Address in front of the teacher or reciting the complete Gettysburg Address from memory will give one a “4.”

One may take each test for a “3,” three times (without penalty) until the due dates listed above.

Behavior/Habits of Learning-- You will be evaluated on the work assigned to you during class and on your homework/Pre-Tests. If you decide for whatever reason that you will not finish the work during the time allowed, then you will be graded accordingly. These points add up for good or for bad by the end of the marking period.

It is strongly recommended that you do your homework assignments. Many time your homework assignments will be:

1. Go to mrhousch.com and look at the homework for today’s date.
2. On mrhousch.com read the “Basics” section of a lesson (Vocabulary words, people to know, and maps).
3. On mrhousch.com read the “Story” section of a lesson (The story lesson tells the narrative or story about what you are studying).
4. On mrhousch.com under “Related Documents” study the Quiz Study Guide for that lesson.
5. On mrhousch.com under “Related Documents” study the Map Study Guide for that lesson.
6. Click on the supplied link to take the Quiz Pre-Test on the lesson that you read.

It is strongly recommended that your computer’s battery is fully charged, and that your computer is fully functional for class. One should attempt to plug up their computer during their homeroom if they doubt the battery charge will not last through the complete academic day.

If there is a consistent pattern of your computer not working properly, and you have not taken it to the Tech Center to get it repaired and/or receive a replacement, this will also affect your Habits of Learning Grade.

Academic Class Work— Besides the American Classics tests, students will be graded on quizzes and writing assignments which they will have approximately once a week throughout the semester.

The assignments for this class are on found on mrhousch.com under the “Assignments” tab.

Every reading lesson for this class are found on mrhousch.com under the “Lessons” tab.

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Students are expected to read the “Basics” section, the “Story” section, and take the Pre-Test when they are assigned, in order to prepare for when they will be tested on the content of that material.

Students will also be assigned writing assignments related to the material that is covered in these lessons, and the essay questions are posted on mrhousch.com under the “Assignments” tab. Be prepared for the essay.

Because we may lose “internet access” at school on some occasions, it is recommended that you download the lessons before class and be prepared to look them over at school.

If you haven’t completed the lessons before class, you will make an unnecessary challenge for yourself.

Weekly Tests—Approximately once a week, you will have an “overall” history quiz on what we covered on previous lessons, a map test from previous lessons, and an essay. The essay questions will be presented to you throughout the week. Look at mrhousch.com for the essay questions for each lesson under the “Assignments” tab.

Debates—We will have three debates this year. The topics will be: Immigration, Gun Control, and Privacy versus Security.

If you miss any or all of a debate, your makeup work will be to go through local newspapers and census records and compile a database for the Hanover community. You will go to Mr. Housch to receive your specific assignment for this project. It is up to you to make up this work so be responsible. Mr. Housch is not going to chase you down.

Makeup Work and Retests—Any test on which you score less than a “2” should be taken again until you show that you understand the material on which you were tested.

You should take the initiative to study for the makeup test and attempt to retake it before school or during COLT period (if you are available). You will have one week to retake the test or to make up any work.

On retakes, you will fill out a Retake Request Sheet stating that you want to retake the test, and stating why you did not do well on the test the first time you took it. Your highest score on a retake will not be more than a “3” on the first time that you retake it. After the first retake you cannot score higher than a “2” on the next retake for that test.

If you do not take the initiative to make up work on your own, you may receive a pass to come to Mr. Housch’s room during lunch to retake the test. However, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to make up tests or to take tests that you missed.

Assignments—Assignments are posted in the classroom and are posted on the website mrhousch.com under the “Assignments” tab. On the “Assignments” page more than a couple of days are posted at a time. It is your responsibility to retrieve your assignments and any class work. You should call the guidance office and ask someone to retrieve any materials that cannot be accessed by mrhousch.com and have them waiting in the guidance office for someone to pick up for you.

Notebooks—Students will acquire a notebook for this class with approximately a 2 inch wide spine. All your work for this class should be kept in your notebook. If you have a dispute with the teacher over your grade or missing work, you need to produce the evidence that you did the work. If you cannot acquire a notebook, let Mr. Housch know.

Headphones/Earphones—Students will acquire headphones/earphones for this class. Sometimes we will be watching/listening to short video clips on your laptop computer as part of a lesson.

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Field Trip—We have a field trip planned for Gettysburg this year.

In January the students who have social studies during the first semester will visit Gettysburg. The students and will go on one of the following dates:

5th Period Wednesday January 3, 2024

6th Period Thursday January 4, 2024

8th Period Friday January 5, 2024

The trips will leave after you have lunch on each of those days. Mr. Housch (a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide) will be taking the group around the battlefield and have you back at Emory H. Markle before school is dismissed that day.

It is your responsibility as a student to make sure that you are in a position academically and discipline-wise to attend this trip with us.

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CLASS EXPECTATIONS

In order for our classroom to run efficiently, it is expected that each student will do their best to contribute to their education.

ALWAYS COME PREPARED FOR CLASS Bring your textbook, paper for notes, and a writing instrument with you every time you come to class.

ALWAYS ARRIVE ON TIME TO CLASS If you arrive after the bell rings for the start of class, you will be marked tardy.

ALWAYS READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WHITEBOARD WHEN YOU COME INTO CLASS Many times you will receive instructions on what papers to pick up in order for you to complete them.

ALWAYS ASK PERMISSION IF YOU NEED TO LEAVE THE ROOM Be sure that you fill out your assignment book with your destination and have it initialed by your teacher. Make sure that your “potty pass” is checked by your teacher before you go to the restroom. We must know where you are at all times.

MAKE SURE THAT THE RESTROOM DOORS REMAIN OPEN AT ALL TIMES There is no need to close the outer doors to the restrooms. If you are in the restroom with the outer door closed, you will receive a yellow slip.

ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION During the class period, I have a “two strike” rule. The first strike is when I write one’s name on the board for disturbing the class, or not following directions. The second strike or warning is a check mark next to the name and a yellow slip will be issued.

ALWAYS USE THE WHOLE CLASS PERIOD Do not pack up your belongings early. I will let you go on time to your next appointment.

ALWAYS WORK TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY Never give less than your best effort. Be proud of your work.

ALWAYS BE POLITE TO YOUR CLASS MEMBERS This includes class members that you do not particularly enjoy, and who might not be very polite to you. Treat each other with respect.

ALWAYS CHECK TO MAKE UP WORK YOU HAVE MISSED WHEN YOU ARE ABSENT FROM CLASS It is your responsibility to ask for work you have missed. If you receive a zero on work you have missed because you did not ask if you missed any work, that was your responsibility.

REMEMBER: Be Respectful, Be Prepared, Be Cooperative, and Be Responsible

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Please detach this sheet of the Course Outline packet and return it completely filled out **tomorrow**.

I have read and understand the Course Outline and Policies, and the Class Expectations for the American Culture Class.

Print Student Name _____ Period _____

Signatures:

Student _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____