

Textbook: *Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States*; McGraw Hill

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Course Description: This one-year course is a study of Nevada from statehood to present day and American history from the time of the American Revolution through World War II. Students explore and evaluate challenges facing the new nation and make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions. The history of Nevada is integrated throughout the year. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This is a required course for all seventh grade students.

- I. Course goals: Lessons will be designed to not only include Nevada State US/Nevada History Standards, but also **Nevada Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy** in order to improve reading, reading comprehension, and writing skills
 - a. Understand significant social, cultural, economic, and political changes.
 - b. Appreciate the contributions made by diverse cultures in the United States.
 - c. Examine the concepts of tolerance and respect.
 - d. Understand the development of the state of Nevada and its unique features.
 - e. To become familiar with technology advances and their impact.
 - f. To recognize the value of responsible citizenship.
 - g. To develop skills necessary to use informational tools.
 - h. To identify causes and effects of major conflicts.
 - i. To explore career opportunities in the field of history.
- II. Course content and time schedule (sequential)
 - a. **First Quarter:** U.S. Geography, The World in 1500, European Exploration of the Americas, The European Colonies, The English Colonies Develop, Beginnings of an American Identity, The Road to Revolution, The American Revolution
 - b. **Second Quarter:** Confederation and Constitution, Launching a New Republic, The Jefferson Era, National and Regional Growth, The Age of Jackson, Manifest Destiny, A New Spirit of Change, The Nation Breaking Apart, The Civil War Begins, The Tide of War Turns, and Reconstruction
 - c. **Third Quarter:** Manifest Destiny, A New Spirit of Change, The Nation Breaking Apart, The Civil War Begins, The Tide of War Turns, and Reconstruction, Growth of the West, An Industrial Society,
 - d. **Fourth Quarter:** Changes in American Life, The Progressive Era, Becoming a World Power, and World War I, The Roaring Twenties, The Great Depression and the New Deal, The Rise of Dictators and World War II
 - e. ***This is just a guide of when topics are covered. As the year progresses we could be ahead or behind this schedule.
- III. Course activities
 - a. Quizzes/Tests:
 - i. Chapter quizzes and semester exams.
 1. In class scantron test.
 2. In class short answer test.
 3. In class essay test.
 - ii. No talking or other distractions will be allowed during testing periods! This will result in a zero on the quiz/exam/test and cannot be retaken for a grade. Devices will not be allowed for tests/quizzes and use of devices when not allowed will be considered cheating.
 - b. Assignments:
 - i. Warm-ups activities
 - ii. class work/ maps
 - iii. America the Story of US video series
 - iv. review concepts

- v. preparing projects
 - vi. Studying for tests/quizzes (specific study guides are provided only for the semester exams, for tests and quizzes students are expected to read over the reading guides, as well as look at any notes or classwork they have; some reviews will be made available in class or on Google classroom).
- IV. Curricular program
Each quarter students will be exposed to the DBQ Project. The DBQ Project is a set of primary source documents about a particular topic that concludes with an essay about the topic using the primary sources as evidence to support a claim. Each quarter the requirements are altered so the final DBQ project essay will be completed by the student on their own.
- V. Semester Projects
Students must complete the semester project for the semester exam. Students will be given the entire semester work on and complete the project which is part of their semester exam grade. Students will be given instructions within the first week of school and will have access to them in class and in google classroom throughout the year.
- i. First Semester
 - US President Project (50 pts)
 - US State Project (50 pts)
 - ii. Second Semester
 - Family Research Project (90pts)
 - US History Individual Research Project (90pts)
- VI. Evaluation
- a. Criteria for arriving at students grades
 - i. Participation 5%
 - ii. Homework 10%
 - iii. in-class assignments 25%
 - iv. Test/quizzes 50%
 - v. Notes 10%
 - b. Semester exams will be worth 20% of the SEMESTER grade
 - i. Semester exams will not be administered early. Students who are absent may make-up their exams on the district approved make-up day.
 - c. Explanation of student grades
 - i. A 100 – 90%
 - ii. B 89 – 80%
 - iii. C 79 – 70%
 - iv. D 69 – 60%
 - v. F 59 and below
 - d. How and when students will be advised of their grades
 - i. Parents and students are urged to check the Infinite Campus Portal for grades regularly.
 - ii. Grades are not posted in the classroom.
 - iii. Progress reports will be sent home throughout the year. Getting the reports signed and returned by the assigned dates will be participation assignments..
 - e. Citizenship/behavior expectations
 - i. Citizenship is taken very seriously here at Leavitt Middle School. Teachers expect the very best from their students every day. Students are expected to bring supplies to class, pay attention, stay on task, talk when appropriate, be respectful to all teachers, students and visitors in the classroom, avoid nuisance items, such as cell phones and toys, always try your best and not chew gum or eat in class. Students who cannot work within these expectations will have points deducted from their citizenship grades. Other actions which disrupt the learning environment of the classroom for other students will also be documented and points will be lost.
 - ii. Below is the scale for citizenship. All reports of misconduct will be documented in the teachers' grade book. This way, both the students and parents will be able to check Infinite Campus to see what his or her current citizenship grade is, and why points have been lost. Points are deducted for poor behavior, not following directions, being rude or disrespectful to the teacher or others in the classroom and for other actions not becoming of a student in seventh grade.

1. 100-85 Outstanding
2. 84-70 –Satisfactory
3. 60-69-Needs Improvement
4. 50 or less- Unsatisfactory

- iii. Optimal student learning happens only if work is done in a timely fashion. Work not turned in on time will be marked as missing, “0”, in Infinite Campus with a notation of missing.
- iv. Late semester projects will **not** be accepted. This is due to the fact that they go on the semester exam and that is already at the end of the quarter. There is no time after the fact to hand in late assignments.

f. Test retake policy –

- i. Any student can retake a quiz. Retakes will be the same information but not the same format. Retakes will be a shorten answer exam rather than a multiple choice exam. Students will be notified if new questions are added from material they have but in most cases, test are the same but in a new format. This is to ensure that students are studying for the retake and not abusing the retake system.
- ii. Retakes will be made available the week after the initial quiz and will only be available during that week. If a student does not show up to retake a quiz or never schedules a time to retake, the first quiz score will stand. No retakes of a quiz will be allowed after the retake period has expired.
- iii. Test retakes will be offered after a request to retest has been expressed to Ms. Fenn and can be before school or after school. Students must talk to the teacher and cannot just show up to retake an exam.

VI. Supplies needed for this course

- a. Each class will need 2 folders and 3 highlighters (any variety of colors). Folder color does vary depending on the class. Please get folders with the color associated with the class period.
 - i. First Period: 2 red or pink folders
 - ii. Third Period: 2 purple or black folders
 - iii. Fourth Period: 2 green folders
 - iv. Sixth Period: 2 orange or yellow folders
- b. Pencils and pens.
- c. Possible classroom donations include:
 - i. Tissues
 - ii. Hand sanitizer
 - iii. markers or colored pencils
 - iv. Glue sticks
 - v. Paper (construction, loose leaf, printer or colored paper)
 - vi. Post it notes
 - vii. Please note: these supplies are used by students for various projects in class. Additional supplies could be requested through the year. Any supplies will be used in the classroom, and are greatly appreciated, but points in the gradebook can't be given to students.

VII. Utilizing technology to learn - This year, at Leavitt, we want to encourage the daily use of technology in and out of the classroom to further enhance the educational experience. As such, Leavitt will be providing students with individual devices in grades 7 and 8 to utilize in class and at home. Students will also be provided with a Google email address to correspond with their teacher and classmates on projects, as well as to turn in assignments. Students may choose to utilize their own electronic tablets (iPads, Kindle Fire, Samsung, etc.) cell phones, laptops, and reading devices for educational purposes. Please be reminded that your student is responsible for the safety of their personal device and must utilize the district's Wifi to ensure their internet safety. All use of these devices will be for educational purposes and must be approved by the individual teacher.

VIII. Teacher's hours of availability

- a. I am available from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday (Wednesday mornings are the exception due to weekly meetings) and 3:21 p.m. to 3:41 p.m.. You may also contact me through e-mail at fenna@nv.ccsd.net Please allow 24 hours for a phone call or e-mail to be responded to.