

8th Grade: U.S. History and Geography: Growth and Conflict
Course Outline
School Year 2015-2016

I. Course Objectives

By the end of the school year, the students should be able to:

1. understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American constitutional democracy;
2. analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government;
3. understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it;
4. analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation;
5. analyze U.S. foreign policy in the early Republic;
6. analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced, with emphasis on the Northeast;
7. analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the South from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced;
8. analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the West from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced;
9. analyze the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence;
10. analyze the multiple causes, key events, and complex consequences of the Civil War;
11. analyze the character and lasting consequences of Reconstruction; and
12. analyze the transformation of the American economy and the changing social and political conditions in the United States in response to the Industrial Revolution
13. Identify the factors and forces behind contemporary events of the recent past and the present.

II. References: The following reference materials will be used by the teacher:

- 8th Grade-** Discovering Our Past: The American Journey (To WW 1)
- Discovery Online Education Videos and activities and other online sources provided by the teacher
- Teacher-prepared Powerpoint lessons and activities

III. Grading System: Your student's Social Studies grade will reflect his/her performance on:

- a. Assessments: Tests, Quizzes, etc.
- b. Homework/Assignments and Projects
- c. Classwork: Seatwork and Participation

and will follow this district grading scale:

A=	90 – 100
B=	80 – 89
C=	70 – 79
D=	60 – 69
F=	0 – 59