

United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict
Grade Eight
Mrs. Pulido
2011-2012 Syllabus



As is typical in most high schools and colleges, I am providing you (and your parents) with a syllabus of goals and expectations. You will find the current *Diocesan Course Content Guidelines* and the *California State History-Social Science Content Standards* attached.

You need to learn what organization methods work best for you before you start high school. However, I am going to have you all try this method as it is the lightest weight and most compact for backpacks and desks. You need **one** duo-tang type pocket-folder for **each** unit's work and handouts plus one each for general information such as this handout and some of our special units (at least 11 folders). I suggest you color-code all things "History" in oranges to match my classroom color-coded folders and master notebook. You **must** be able to keep all your materials together and ready for use. Being able to organize separate classes' materials successfully is a prerequisite for high school. Good organization will also help you prepare for your eighth grade portfolio, too. This syllabus and course guidelines/standards **MUST** be kept in your general history folder. The signature slip signed by you and your parent(s) will remain in my file and is your first homework grade. **I allow a maximum of a two-night turnover for such signature required items.** Your second homework grade will be proof of your folders and a covered textbook. Our textbook is still fairly new and must be kept covered at all times in order to keep it looking that way. Online components to help you learn more and review are available for this edition as well.

Your **grade** will be based upon many components using a point system and the diocesan grading scale within these categories: in-class work, homework, testing (using various methods), group work, special projects, current events, participation, and a few extra credit opportunities. **Late work** will only be accepted for partial credit if no more than one day late. An absence due to illness will earn one day's grace per day absent; a planned absence for other reasons will **not** be an excuse for late work. However, long range assignments will **not** be accepted late. Testing that has been announced in advance of an absence will be made up the day you return to school. Consideration and some flexibility may be granted for unusual circumstances. **Chapter reading checks may be corrected with page references for some credit recovery as they serve as formative assessments leading to mastery.**

Besides chapter/unit activities, there will be special assignments. Each of you will conduct an oral history interview of a veteran of any of our Armed Forces and present your findings to class. Each of you will learn proper research methods for writing a **short** paper where you draw conclusions from historical evidence and declare someone a "Maker of American History". Each of you will become a member of a small group in which you will research some part of your family's heritage (ethnic background) and share it at our annual Heritage Fair. Each of you will prove mastery in knowing all fifty states (name and location, abbreviation, and capital through written tests) and our presidents' names, something every citizen should know about his/her country.

Check both <http://strosecvschool.com/> and <http://new.schoolnotes.com> (enter my name and the zip code 91910 in the boxes after choosing the student or parent tab) for updates often. I love history and look forward to a great year exploring it with you.
Mrs. Robin Pulido



Please sign, detach, and return this slip by tomorrow but no later than Friday, September 2, 2011.

I (we) have read and understand the grade eight history syllabus.

Student _____ Date _____

Parent(s) _____ Phone # _____

Parental e-mail addresses: _____

Questions/comments: _____