

8th Grade US History: Box Elder Middle School

Teacher Information:

Ms. Winterton
Room: 44

Email: lyndee.winterton@besd.net
Class Website: wintertonhistory.com

Course Description:

Welcome to 8th Grade US History! We will start this course with Ancient American Civilizations and end with post-Civil War Reconstruction. Each unit we will look at the events themselves as well as their causes and impact. You will also hear a lot of really great stories and learn some lessons from history along the way. US History is my passion so I hope you enjoy the class!

Behavior Expectations, Intervention, and Class Rules:

In this classroom, I will treat you with respect so you know how to treat me. Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for anyone else. If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it. If you can't solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something. What I do will depend on the individual situation and person. If you feel something is unfair, feel free to respectfully come talk to me after class.

In addition, please be aware of the following particulars:

- Snacks are okay but must be kept *out of sight*. Do not leave a mess or share food. Drinks must have a lid.
- Foul/obscene language will not be tolerated.
- No bullying. If you are being bullied or see it happen, tell an adult about it as soon as possible.
- All other school rules/policies will be enforced in this classroom. Please take note of the school's new cell phone policy, found on the school website.

Class Materials:

Items needed in class *everyday*:

- Section in a binder with paper **or** notebook and folder *specifically for this class*
- Pen (blue or black ink) **and/or** pencil
- Reading book (this can be from another class or one of personal interest)

Grade Scale:

In this class, we use standards-referenced grading based on specific learning standards identified for each unit.

Practice: Assignments and Homework		Assessments: Tests and Quizzes	
A	I handed it in, it is complete and correct, and it is total quality work.	A	I have demonstrated understanding beyond proficiency on the learning standard.
B	I handed it in, it is complete, but it has some mistakes	B	I have demonstrated proficiency on the learning standard.
C	I handed it in, it is not complete, and/or it has mistakes.	C	I have a general understanding, but lack details required for proficiency on the learning standard
D	I handed it in, it is not complete, and/or it is not quality work.	D	I am not yet able to demonstrate general understanding without help.
F	I did not hand it in.	F	I am not yet able to demonstrate general understanding, even with help

A **learning standard** consists of two things: 1) the specific content a student is expected to learn, and 2) what proficiency looks like (to what level they are expected to learn it). Students will be provided the learning standards for each unit so they know exactly what we are learning and what is expected of them.

Grade Weights:

Practice: 25% of trimester grade (may include in-class participation, in-class assignments, homework, etc)
Assessments: 75% of trimester grade (may include tests, quizzes, written responses, etc.)

What to Expect:

Class Notes: Done in class. Organization will be key! Make sure you have a way of keeping the notes and other class material together.

Quizzes: Most quizzes will be given randomly, usually at the beginning of class. Some quizzes will be open-note while others will be closed-note.

Tests: There will be a unit test at the end of each unit. Tests are sectioned into that unit's learning goals. The class period before the test, I will provide study guides, which count as an assignment grade (i.e., they are not optional). Any test section (representing a single learning goal) may be retaken *once*. Generally, students only need to re-take the learning goal they were not proficient in.

Interventions: We will take time out of class to reteach where necessary. Interventions are determined by performance on individual learning targets, not by overall test or quiz grades.

Writing: Writing assignments are graded on content *and* grammar. Spelling will be corrected but will not count against students (unless it is actually a grammar issue, not a spelling issue).

In-Class Projects: We will do periodic in-class projects.

Homework: There are two homework assignments for this class. 1) A study guide every unit. 2) Interview a veteran.

Other Assignments: I reserve the right to add or alter types of assignments as needed.

Citizenship Grades: Citizenship grades are based on classroom behavior, participation, and preparedness. Excessive absences or tardies will affect your ability to participate in class and, thus, will result in a lower citizenship grade. Citizenship grades can be raised by demonstrating consistent effort to improve.

Movies/Videos: Though we rarely watch a full-length video in class, a complete list of all videos that *may* be used in class (as clips or in full) are listed on my class website.

Canvas: We may use Canvas or School City to take tests or complete other assignments. These will always be done in class (no need to access Canvas from home) and all grades will be transferred to the Gradebook, accessible through the school website.

Missing or Late Work:

Missing/Late Work Deadline: Missing or late work from one unit must be turned by the end of that unit. Anything turned in after its unit is past will be subject to a 20% penalty.

Test/Quiz Retakes: Retakes may be taken at any time within the trimester for full points. However, remember that the farther away you get from the original day, the harder it is to increase your proficiency score. Typically, you will only need to retake the section for the learning target where proficiency was not demonstrated.

No-name papers will be thrown away and marked as 0. The work can be re-done but will be docked points. Please remember to put your name on things.

Students are personally responsible to track down make-up work and late work. You can look on my website or come talk to me. Make-ups should be done before/after school. Retakes can be taken during intervention time in class. You can also check grades through Gradebook on the school website.

If there are extenuating circumstances, please let me know as soon as possible.

Hall Passes:

At the beginning of each trimester, students will each be issued four hall passes. You must keep track of your own hall passes. You *may not* share hall passes with other students. Lost hall passes cannot be replaced. To use the hall pass, please fill out the hall pass completely, simply stand up and hand it to me, and take the hall pass lanyard. Do not raise your hand and ask to leave (if you do, I will say no). You need to return within 5-7 minutes. Hall passes do not roll-over from one trimester to another.

Extra Credit:

While I do not offer extra credit, I will offer occasional bonus points tied to an assessment or assignment.

Tardy Policy:

I will close the door when the tardy bell rings. Students who are not in the room at that time are late.

Dear Parents: I am excited to have your student(s) in my class and to work with you as a parent-teacher team. I want both you and your child to feel welcome and encouraged to talk to me with any concerns, feedback, questions, help, or reteaching. It is easiest to get a hold of me through my school email: lyndee.winterton@besd.net. However, do not hesitate to call or make an appointment to meet together. To see what we are doing in class each day, feel free to visit my class website: wintertonhistory.com/ushistory.

Student:

I have read the US History Disclosure Document and agree to the policies, rules, and procedures of this class.

Student Name (printed)

Class Period

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian:

I have read the US History Disclosure Document with my student and agree to the policies, rules, and procedures of this class.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Best way and time to contact you:

Circle one: Morning Afternoon Evening

Circle one: Email Text Phone Call

Preferred contact information:

Do you have access to a computer or internet at home?

Circle one: Computer Internet Both

Please list 2 of your child's strengths:

Questions, concerns, comments, or anything you want me to know about your student: