

8th grade History Syllabus

Mr. James Sheridan
406-324-2817
jsheridan@helenaschools.org

C.R. Anderson MS
Room 214

This course is a survey of American history from the Civil War to the present. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, critical thinking skills, and interpretation of original documents. Besides listening to traditional lectures on important themes in U.S. History, students are expected to participate in class through discussions, debates on key issues, and simulations. We will be following current events and will be utilizing online student news sources. Furthermore, students are expected to continually develop their writing skills through regular short writing assignments and maintaining a Bell Ringer journal.

Required Supplies:

- Bring your **charged Chromebook** to school every day!
- **Headphones**
- **Pencils**

COOPERATIVE

Attendance:

Please be here and be on time and come to class ready to learn! The more time you spend in class the more I can teach you!

Participation:

Since your active engagement in lessons will dramatically impact your learning, I expect you to be fully engaged throughout each lesson. I will do all I can to keep the lessons engaging, fast-paced, safe, and fun.

RESPECTFUL

Respect:

Please be respectful to your classmates and to yourself. In Mr. Sheridan's classroom, everyone is accepted. All students have the right to be in a safe classroom where all ideas and thoughts are recognized, and communication is valued. So, come to class ready to learn. I do not want any distractions that will prohibit you from learning!

ACHIEVERS

Grading:

Practice is essential for learning and continued academic success. Successful practice requires structured attempts with specific feedback and the opportunity to try again. This cycle happens over and over with me providing feedback until you have mastered the concept or met the teacher's learning expectation.

- **All** assignments will be posted on my web page.
- I allow you to Redo, Rewrite, Retest!

- Students have two weeks from the time it is graded to retest or rewrite. I want you to learn and sometimes learning takes a couple of times to get it right. You will need to communicate this with me and we will plan to get this done!
- All the work we do in class matters! I want you always to give your best efforts. You should NOT have homework. The only homework that you may have is if you were absent or need more time to finish a classroom assignment. Remember, everyone works at a different pace and some students need a bit more time. All classwork/homework assignments will be worth 40% of your overall grade. All assessments, tests, and writing will be worth 60% of your final grade.
- Grading Scale: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, Below 60% = F

Late work:

I want you to complete **all** your assignments, as that is how the best learning happens! I know that sometimes life is complex, and you may need more time. I will accept late work. However, I do not want it to become a habit. Please communicate with me and we will figure out a plan. Keep in mind that if you are not doing the work, then you ARE behind. When you fall behind you WILL struggle with the assessments and WILL NOT meet the standards!

If you are absent for an assessment the expectation is that you will come in advisor to take it.

I am so lucky that I get to be your teacher! No matter what challenges we may face, let's make it a wonderful year! ~~*Mr. Sheridan*