



South Williamsport Area School District
Course Plan Template

Teacher: Mark German	School Year: 2014 - 2015
Course: North American History	Intended Grade Level: Grade 8
Course Summary: Students will travel all the way back to the earliest known history of North America. The class will understand conflicting theories about where the first inhabitants came from. We will then explore the descendants of those first inhabitants, the Native Americans. Each Native American culture will be studied. The European conquest of North America will follow. Students will recognize the bitter struggle for control of North America and her valuable resources. The class will then learn about the 13 English colonies and their struggle to gain independence and freedom in the American Revolution. The theme of patriotism and nationalism will continue by closing out the school year with the creation of the United States Constitution.	
Course Outcomes: <i>By the end of the course, students will know:</i> This course offers three basic areas of knowledge that are essential for every student to take with them into the real world. The first area focuses on the development of a multicultural perspective that teaches students the importance of understanding the differences and commonalities of the many cultures that exist in this country today. Students learn the dangers of prejudice and racism and the negative impact that these practices can have on society. They will attempt to accomplish this by studying the Native Americans, African Slavery, and the numerous immigrant groups that helped to create and build this country into what it is today. This class allows students to make connections with people in other cultures and helps to place them in the chain that links the past to the future. The second area of knowledge focuses on the students= active role in a democratic society. They learn what their responsibilities and obligations are as a citizen. This course will teach them what life was like under an abusive government, the origins of democracy, and their role in continuing a democracy that has lasted for over 200 years. Students will recognize the importance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They will also understand how these two documents, particularly the Bill of Rights, relate to them as eighth graders. The third and perhaps most important area of knowledge focuses on nationalism and patriotism. Students must know that the freedom and liberty they enjoy today has come at a high price. Through the American Revolution they will learn what it means to sacrifice and stand up for what is right. They will appreciate the numerous lives that were lost so they can enjoy the three unalienable rights that Jefferson wrote about. Students must be taught about these sacrifices in order to better understand their role in preserving those same values that were fought for and have been fought for over the past 200 plus years. <i>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</i> Away from the content, this course also encourages students to develop the skills they will need to be well-rounded and productive members of society. Through the content of this course students are exposed to critical thinking, problem solving, creative writing, debating, differentiation, and research skills. There is a major emphasis placed on writing with at least four major writing prompts per marking period. I feel that students are developing the skills that they need while at the same time learning about the history that is necessary for them to become contributing members of society. How can we expect students to know where they have to go in the future if they have no knowledge of their past?	



South Williamsport Area School District
Course Plan Template

Standards Targeted	
National Standards for History: <u>National Center For History In The Schools</u>	
Units of Study	
Unit Topics	Primary Learning Outcome
The Three Discoveries of America	Students will recognize that America was actually discovered twice before Columbus arrived. They will understand that Columbus did not really discover anything because there were inhabitants living here for at least 10,000 years. Students will also learn the truth concerning the European discovery of America and the actions taken by Columbus.
The English Colonies in America	Students will understand the competition that took place for the domination of America by the European rivalries. They will recognize the purpose of the colonies and understand the reasons for their establishment.
Life in Colonial America	Students will recognize the difficulties faced by the colonists when they arrived in America. They will understand the importance of organization and cooperation. Students will also understand the origins of slavery in this country and be able to recognize racism and discrimination.
Governing The American Colonies	Students will recognize how England was able to control her colonies even though she was an ocean away. They will understand how the early colonial government worked and the importance of democracy. Students will understand why the colonists became so disgruntled with their king and his government.
The Revolutionary War	Students will recognize the difference between “revolution” and “revolutionary.” They will understand the decision by the American colonies to stand up against their king and declare independence. They will also recognize the overwhelming odds that the colonists were able to overcome
Creating the United States	Students will recognize the importance of establishing a powerful but fair government to run the country. They will understand the major parts of the United States Constitution and how the country is run by this document. They will also recognize the rights that they have and how the Bill of Rights affects them as students and citizens.
Advanced Learner Recommendations	
Advanced learners will have the opportunity to show their creativity and talents through performance based assessments (projects) and writing assessments throughout the academic school year. These performance based assessments include presentations, posters, interpretations, and collages of information. Writing assessments include controversial topics in which students have to argue and	



South Williamsport Area School District
Course Plan Template

persuade.

Struggling Learner Recommendations

Accommodations for struggling learners are made after review of the student IEP. Students have access to a learning support teacher throughout the entire period. Accommodations include hard copies of notes, modified tests and quizzes, reduced content / requirements on performance based tasks (projects). Struggling learners also have a study hall with the learning support teacher to work on assignments and acquire additional help if needed.