



**U.S. History 8
Grymes Memorial School
Mr. McLeod
2023-2024 School Year**

Course Description

In the eighth grade U.S. History course students explore American history from Reconstruction to the modern era.

Textbook

William Deverell's *United States History* is the primary textbook for the course. So that students can keep up with reading assignments, students will be issued a copy of the text which can remain at home.

Mr. McLeod's Website

On Mr. McLeod's website students and parents will find weekly schedules and additional resources related to this course. The site can be reached via the following address:

www.grymesmcleod.org

Veracross

On Veracross students and parents can access information concerning grades and upcoming assignments using their usernames and passwords. The Veracross portal can be reached via the following address:

<https://accounts.veracross.com/grymes/portals/login>

Behavioral Expectations

The Pillars of Our Community

Honor, respect, responsibility, and kindness are the pillars of our community. The behavioral expectations associated with this class are built around these virtues. Students who act with integrity and show respect for others, while exercising responsibility and kindness, will be in good standing as it pertains to discipline in this classroom. Because we are a community of learners, the expectation is that all of us will follow the rules, respect the spirit of the rules, and be thoughtful and inclusive.

Bullying

Because bullying behavior can profoundly disrupt the harmony of our school, and cause distrust, we will be vigilant about rooting it out even if it is not clearly visible in the classroom. Don't poison the well! If you are threatening, excluding, or demeaning another person you are harming our community.

Green Chair

Should a student not be acting in accordance with the pillars of our community the student may be sent to the green chair which is in the Gardner Hall commons. The student shall remain in the green chair until asked by Mr. McLeod to return to the classroom.

Student and Parent Conferences

Should a student show a pattern of not acting in accordance with the pillars of our community, Mr. McLeod will meet privately with the student, and if necessary, the parents of the student.

Silent Lunch and Demerits

Should behaviors warrant, a silent lunch will be assigned to the student. For more egregious behaviors that run counter to our community values and rules, Mr. McLeod may assign a demerit.

Honor Code

From the 2023-2024 Family Handbook:

At Grymes Memorial School, we believe that the development of a personal code of ethics and conduct is essential to any honor system. All members of the Grymes community are responsible for creating and maintaining trust within the community. Grymes Memorial School's ethics are defined by the Honor Code, which states that students will not lie, cheat, or steal. This behavior, along with bullying, harassment and disrespect will not be tolerated.

Academic Expectations

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a portal that allows students to view the assignments and announcements for all of their classes. Students are expected to log-in to Google Classroom on a daily basis to see assignments and announcements. Students are expected to have a working understanding of how Google Classroom operates and how to properly submit assignments within Google Classroom. Google Classroom allows students to access their History materials and assignments at any time on any computer using an internet connection.

Completing Assignments in a Punctual Manner

Students are expected to complete assignments in a punctual manner. Penalties will be assessed for work completed late. Assignment deadlines can be seen in Google Classroom and due dates are also noted within Veracross.

Presentations, Interactive Notebooks, and Study Guides

Mr. McLeod will make his presentations available to students in the form of Google Slides which will be posted on Google Classroom. Students will complete notes about these presentations in an interactive notebook and submit their completed interactive notebooks through Google Classroom. The textbook, Google Slide presentations, and completed interactive notebooks should be used to complete study guides which will also be submitted through Google Classroom.

Quizlet

Quizlet assignments will be given to help students master content and prepare for tests. Quizlet assignments will be assigned in Google Classroom and completed on the Quizlet site. Upon completing the assignment students are expected to complete a form in Google Classroom indicating that the assignment has been completed.

Tests

Tests will be composed of ten identify questions, worth 6 points each, and two paragraph response questions worth 20 points each. All test questions will be chosen from the study guide.

The Planner

Each student is issued a planner at the beginning of the school year. Students should write their assignments and assessments in their planners on a daily basis.

Grading Information

Grading Scale

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60

Semester Exams

A semester exam is given at the end of each semester. The first semester exam addresses information from the first and second quarters. The second semester exam addresses material from the third and fourth quarters.

Semester Grades

Each of the two quarter grades in a semester count three times in the computation of semester grades. The semester exam counts once in the computation of semester grades. The sum of this computation is divided by seven to determine the semester grade. If Johnny earned an 80% average for the first quarter, a 90% average for the second quarter, and a 78% average for the semester exam, the computation to determine the semester grade would be as follows:

$$(3 \times 80) + (3 \times 90) + (1 \times 78) = 588 / 7 = 84\%$$

Grade for the Year

The grade for the year is the average of the two semester grades. If Mary earned an 80% average for the first semester and a 90% average for the second semester, the computation to determine the grade for the year would be as follows:

$$80 + 90 = 170; 170 / 2 = 85\%$$

Useful Information

Mr. McLeod's Email Address

Mr. McLeod's email address is as follows:

rmcleod@grymesschool.org

Mr. McLeod's Schedule (2023-2024)

Period 1	U.S. History 7
Period 2	U.S. History 7
Period 3	Planning
Period 4	World History 6
Period 5	World History 6
Period 6	U.S. History 8
Period 7	Planning

Paper Copies Not Required

Some students will not want to keep a traditional three ring binder. Keeping a traditional three ring binder is not required. Assignments, study guides, and practice materials can be found online at Quizlet and Google Classroom.

Some students will want to keep a traditional three ring binder. Keeping a traditional three ring binder is not required. The assignments, study guides, and practice materials that can be found online at Quizlet and Google Classroom can, however, be printed out and placed in a three ring notebook.

Mr. McLeod did not place a three ring notebook on the supply list as keeping a three ring notebook is not required.

Weekly Emails and Weekly Schedules

Mr. McLeod sends out, via email, a schedule for the week. These weekly emails are sent to students and to parents. The weekly schedules are usually sent out on Sundays. The weekly schedules indicate classroom activities and homework for each day of the week.

Important First Quarter Information

Dates

Anticipated Start Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Anticipated Middle of the Quarter: Friday, September 29, 2023

Anticipated End of Quarter: Thursday, November 2, 2023

Curriculum

First Unit	Reconstruction
Second Unit	Industrialization
Third Unit	Gilded Age

Anticipated Types of Grades, Veracross Codes, and Grade Weighting

<u>Description</u>	<u>Veracross Code</u>	<u>Grade Weighting</u>
Quizlet Exercises	OTH1	10%
Interactive Notebooks	OTH2	15%
Study Guides	OTH3	15%
Unit Tests	Tests	60%

Overall quarter grade weighting will be determined at the end of a quarter based on the nature of the assignments collected and the circumstances of the quarter. It is expected that the grade weighting shown above will be used.

Important Second Quarter Information

Dates

Anticipated Start Date: Monday, November 6, 2023

Anticipated Middle of the Quarter: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Anticipated End of Quarter: Thursday, January 18, 2023

Curriculum

First Unit	Imperialism and Progressivism
Second Unit	World War I
Third Unit	The Twenties

Anticipated Types of Grades, Veracross Codes, and Grade Weighting

<u>Description</u>	<u>Veracross Code</u>	<u>Grade Weighting</u>
Quizlet Exercises	OTH1	10%
Interactive Notebooks	OTH2	15%
Study Guides	OTH3	15%
Unit Tests	Tests	60%

Overall quarter grade weighting will be determined at the end of a quarter based on the nature of the assignments collected and the circumstances of the quarter. It is expected that the grade weighting shown above will be used.

Important Third Quarter Information

Dates

Anticipated Start Date: Monday, January 22, 2024

Anticipated Middle of the Quarter: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Anticipated End of Quarter: Thursday, March 28, 2024

Curriculum

First Unit	The Thirties
Second Unit	World War II
Third Unit	The Cold War

Anticipated Types of Grades, Veracross Codes, and Grade Weighting

<u>Description</u>	<u>Veracross Code</u>	<u>Grade Weighting</u>
Quizlet Exercises	OTH1	10%
Interactive Notebooks	OTH2	15%
Study Guides	OTH3	15%
Unit Tests	Tests	60%

Overall quarter grade weighting will be determined at the end of a quarter based on the nature of the assignments collected and the circumstances of the quarter. It is expected that the grade weighting shown above will be used.

Third Quarter Field Trip

The U.S. History 8 class will be attending the Wednesday, February 28, 2024 performance of *Keep Marching: The Road To The March On Washington* at the Paramount Theater in Charlottesville. Using oral history and live music the one-act play explores the important role the march played in the Civil Rights Movement.

Important Fourth Quarter Information

Dates

Anticipated Start Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Anticipated Middle of the Quarter: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Anticipated End of Quarter: Friday, May 31, 2024

Curriculum

First Unit	Civil Rights
Second Unit	Modern Era
Third Unit	Continuing Change

Anticipated Types of Grades, Veracross Codes, and Grade Weighting

<u>Description</u>	<u>Veracross Code</u>	<u>Grade Weighting</u>
Quizlet Exercises	OTH1	10%
Interactive Notebooks	OTH2	15%
Study Guides	OTH3	15%
Unit Tests	Tests	60%

Overall quarter grade weighting will be determined at the end of a quarter based on the nature of the assignments collected and the circumstances of the quarter. It is expected that the grade weighting shown above will be used.

Essays

Example Paragraph Writing Prompt

Characterize the Civil Rights Movement in the years between 1947 and 1956. In your one paragraph essay be sure to include a strong topic sentence and information about Jackie Robinson, Executive Order 9981, Brown v. Board of Education, the “Brown II” Decision, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Example Paragraph Essay Response

In the period between 1947 and 1956 the Civil Rights Movement witnessed several successes. In 1947 Jackie Robinson broke the major league color barrier when the Brooklyn Dodgers called him up from the minor leagues. In 1948 President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which desegregated the U.S. armed forces. In the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education case the Supreme Court announced their unanimous decision to overturn the Plessy v. Ferguson decision, ruling that separate facilities are “inherently unequal.” The following year, the Supreme Court issued the “Brown II” decision which ruled that segregation must end with “all deliberate speed.” Many southern states would, however, resist integration well into the 1960s. In December 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus and was arrested leading to a bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr. The boycott, which lasted more than a year, resulted in another Supreme Court decision calling for the integration of buses in Montgomery.

Paragraph Essay Writing Rubric

Topic Sentence Clearly Addresses Prompt	4	3	2	1	0
All Key Points Listed In Prompt Full Addressed	4	3	2	1	0
Use of Specifics Related To All Key Points	4	3	2	1	0
Essay Answers Prompt / Ideas Well Developed	4	3	2	1	0
Language Usage / Clarity Of Thought	4	3	2	1	0

Total Score: _____ / 20