

Agueda Johnston Middle School  
8th Grade Social Studies  
Syllabus SY 2018-2019

**Teacher Name:** Alexie R. Mapson   **Team:** Black Pearls   **Room:** 21 (B-Wing, 2nd floor)

**Contact Information:** [armapson@gdoe.net](mailto:armapson@gdoe.net) 472 - 6785 / 6947 ext. 5036

**Course Description:**

Agueda Johnston Middle School 8th Grade students will take a course in US History which is a year-long course analyzing the origins of the American nation, with a specific concentration on the formation of government and founding documents through the end of the Civil War. Students will focus on geography skills, principles of government, economics, global awareness, cultural diversity and the “Play By the Rules” program from the Guam Judiciary.

At the conclusion of the course students will have a firm grasp and understanding of the details of early American history, allowing them both the historical perspective to comment on particulars as well as form their own unique opinion regarding current issues, preparing them for the study of Reconstruction through the modern era at the High School level, and for active citizenship.

**Course Outline:**

<p><b>Quarter 1</b> Review of map skills, charts &amp; graphs Early American &amp; Mariana civilizations Environment, Migration &amp; Columbian Exchange Exploration <b>Social Studies priority standards:</b> 8.2.1, US 2.4</p>	<p><b>Quarter 2</b> Colonial America Economics &amp; Government Understanding &amp; using primary sources <b>Social Studies priority standards:</b> 8.2.3, US 2.5</p>
<p><b>Quarter 3</b> Branches of government Founding documents Territorial expansion Understanding cause &amp; effect <b>Social Studies priority standards:</b> 8.2.2, US 2.6</p>	<p><b>Quarter 4</b> Sectionalism &amp; The Civil War Understanding historical change &amp; continuity Civics &amp; citizenship The 50 states &amp; flag etiquette <b>Social Studies priority standards:</b> GH 2.2, US 2.9</p>

**Required Materials:**

- A composition notebook dedicated to Social Studies
- #2 pencils, erasers, and blue or black pens
- 1 classroom supply item, to be assigned at a later date.

**Textbooks:** *The American Nation* (Prentice Hall) and *The American Journey* (Glencoe)

<b>Grading Scale</b>		<b>Traditional Grades</b>		<b>Grade Divisions</b>	
Exceeds	4	100%	A	Homework	10%
Meets	3	90%	B	current events & maps	
Approaching	2	70%	C	Projects	30%
Not yet ready	1	60%	D	large writing & visual assignments	
No grade	0	50%	F	In-class work	20%
				group work, research & notes	
				Tests & quizzes	30%
				Vocabulary, geography, exams	
				Participation	10%

\*\*Zeros will be given for instances of academic dishonesty or no effort\*\*

**Homework:** There will be a Social Studies homework assignment every night. It will usually be small and should take only 15 minutes. Homework is due at the start of each class period.

Thank you for your support!

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**Ongoing assignments:** In Social Studies, students will have 2 regularly assigned projects:

*Current Events-* Students should keep up with the news. Students must select, read, reflect on, and present 1 current event per quarter. In order to get credit, students must turn in a reflection (email or written) including the full citation for their source, 1 paragraph summarizing their event and 1 paragraph reflecting on the importance of the event. They must then present the event to the class.

*Regional Maps-* Students should know geography. Students will be given an outline map of a region that we are studying and will have 1 week to fill in the state or country names and capitals. This will be an in-class assignment given 1-2 times per quarter.

**Late and missing work:**

Students who are not able to complete homework and class work on time will be assigned tutoring during break or lunch times. Large assignments including tests and quizzes can be made up, for an average of the 2 grades. Late work will be accepted until the quarter is over, but points will be deducted and work from a previous quarter will not be accepted without administrative approval. It is the responsibility of students who have excused absences to request make up work and complete it promptly. Unexcused absences are not entitled to make up missed work. PLAN AHEAD if you know you will be missing school! It is STRONGLY recommended that students who must miss class, or have any questions at all, use the classroom website and teacher email to keep up with the class.

**Field Trips:**

Field trips are an opportunity for students to learn outside of the classroom setting. There may be opportunities for students to participate in field trips this year. ALL students must have their field trip form signed by guardians and teachers in order to participate.

**Teacher-Parent/Guardian Communication:**

I highly encourage all parents/guardians to keep in good communication with me and Team Black Pearls teachers. You are welcome to schedule meetings with individual teachers or the whole team upon request to discuss your child's overall academic development or other matters. Students are responsible for maintaining a planner, and recording daily assignments is mandatory.

**Behavioral Expectations: Think critically and be safe, respectful, and responsible!**

In Social Studies, students will participate in writing, speaking, art, and kinesthetic activities with a positive attitude and should communicate appropriately with the teacher if they are not able to participate fully. Students are expected to come to class prepared, including prepared with high quality completed homework and projects.

We will follow all Team Black Pearls and School rules, and the consequences for infraction will be consistent across the team. Students may only bring in electronic devices with written permission from the teacher (for occasional research projects).

**Progress Reports:** Q1: September 14, Q2: November 16, Q3: February 8, Q4: April 12

**Parent Teacher Conference (PTC):** October 24, 2018 and Marcy 27, 2019

**PowerSchool Access:** <https://powerschool.gdoe.net/public/>

**Class website:** <http://mrsmapsonsocialstudies.weebly.com/>

Syllabus approved by Principal of Curriculum Assessment and Instruction

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Dr. Rebecca Perez

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**Acknowledgement Form:**

Dear parents/ guardians,  
When you and your child have read this syllabus, please complete the personal information below, sign, and date. Return this form to Mrs. Mapson no later than August 31 for a homework grade. Thank you for your continued support.

My child and I have reviewed the syllabus for Social Studies and agree to follow and support it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (print)                      Student's Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Guardian Name (print)                      Parent/ Guardian's Signature                      Date

Parent/ Guardian Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number(s): H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ W: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Parent/ Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number(s): H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ W: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide any information that Team Black Pearls should know to help your child have a successful year.

\_\_\_\_ My child has allergies (please explain):

\_\_\_\_ My child has visual, hearing or health problems that the teacher should know about (please explain):

\_\_\_\_ There is other information that will help the teacher to understand my child (please explain):

The best way to contact the the family in an emergency is: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!