**Mr. B. DAVIS**

**United States History- 8th grade**

**Montford Middle School** **2022-2023**

[Davisb3@leonschools.net](mailto:Davisb3@leonschools.net)

**Syllabus**

**Overview:**

This class is a survey course of the beginning of history of the United States. This class will present a prominent focus on early pre-historic America leading up to Reconstruction. Various reading and writing skills will be acquired. This course will enable students to acquire and organize information about the creation and existence of the United States.

**Text**:

Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States. Early Years. Florida Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2017.

**Rules:**

\*\* (3 minor infractions will result in 1 number lower in citizenship)

1. Be on time.

1. Be prepared: come with a writing utensil and notebook *every day*.
2. Bring an open mind.
3. No gum, candy, food, or drink is allowed in the classroom.

**Procedures:**

1. Passes will be issued for emergencies only. Please use your FIVE minutes between class for your restroom and locker needs.
2. If you have missed class and you have questions, ask or email me at an appropriate time. Or check the work folder to see what you have missed, only before or after class.
3. Look at the board each day for plan for the day, start working on bellringer/ warmup upon arrival before the bell, copy down any homework or important dates in a planner.

**Consequences:**

1st time:  verbal warning, behavior recorded

2nd time: behavior recorded, parent notified

3rd time: A Referral/Detention will be given

**Materials:**

* Blue and/or Black Pens
* 3 Ring binder
* Notebook Paper

**Grading:**    The percentage scale reflects the districts scale:

90-100-A             Assessments (tests/quizzes/projects/papers) = 70%

80-89-B Homework/Classwork = 30%

70-79-C

60-69-D

0-59-F

Students have the same amount of days absent to make up the work. (District Policy)

**Online Work**: **When Given**

Students will be expected to login to canvas to access classwork as well as instruction materials.

Work will need to be submitted in the canvas app or uploaded to Focus and grades will be

reflected in focus. It is the student’s responsibility to check for new assignments and mange

when they are due.

**Late Work**:

Homework/Classwork is accepted late but will incur a deduction for every day late. Projects will be taken late, but incur the same penalty as previously mentioned. Tests will be made up before school or during class time depending on scheduling. You have to approach me at a reasonable time (or email me).

**History Fair:**

It is mandatory to do history fair in 8th grade. The student, with approval from the teacher, can choose topics/groups. This is a huge research activity that will encourage the students to research an area/aspect of history that the student is interested in. Proper citing techniques (MLA Style) will be used as well as productive researching methods. Certain chosen students will be entered into the Montford School History Fair to compete with other Montford students to possibly advance to Leon County District History Fair. This year’s theme is ***Frontiers in History: People, Places and Ideas***. Students will pick a topic in history to tie to the annual theme. More information regarding History Fair will be handed out at a later date.

Important History Fair dates: ***SUBJECT TO CHANGE***

1st 9 weeks:

Topic due- Friday, September 16

2nd 9 weeks:

Final Sources due (4x4)- Friday, October 28

Process Paper and Title Page due- Friday, November 18

Project rough draft- Friday, December 2

3rd 9 weeks:

**FINAL project due\*- (this will NOT be accepted after this date)**

**\*This grade will go on 3rd 9 weeks- Friday, January 20**

[www.noodletools](http://www.noodletools): This site assists students with achieving correct MLA citations.

[www.nationalhistoryday.org](http://www.nationalhistoryday.org): This site is the national site for history fair if you have any general questions.

When signing the syllabus, it means **you approve of your son/daughter participating in the following books**. If you don’t approve of a particular book, please write a note next to your signature when you want them to have an alternate assignment.

**In Class Movies:** When signing the syllabus, it means **you approve of your son/daughter participating in watching the following movies.** If you don’t approve a particular movie, please write a note next to your signature when you want them to have an alternate assignment. When movies not listed are to be shown permission slips will be sent to authorize the students to view the movie. If the students forgets their signed permission slip you may email me and inform me of your decision.

**Outside Movies:**

This is a list of outside films/documentaries brought in to accompany the textbook. Below is list of possible supplementary filmography that could be used in the classroom to help give a better understanding of the material. There may be other material later in the semester if there is a permission slip will be sent home to secure your authorization

* We Shall Remain America Through Native Eyes: Episode 1 After the Mayflower and Episode 2 Tecumseh’s Vision, Episode 3 Trail of Tears
* Guns, Germs and Steel: Episode 2 Conquest
* Ken Burns The West: Episode 2 Empire upon the Trails and Episode 3 The Speck of the Future
* Ken Burns The Civil War
* John Adams HBO Miniseries chronicling early aspects of his life and life as president

**Outside Reading:**

This is a list of outside reading brought in to accompany the textbook. Below is list of possible supplementary reading that could be used in the classroom to help give a better understanding of the material. There may be other reading later in the semester if there is a permission slip will be sent home to secure your authorization.

* Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee and Indian History of the American West (Dee Brown)
* Western Apache Raiding and Warfare (Greenville Goodwin, Keith H. Basso)
* Voices of 1776 The Story of the American Revolution in the Words of those who were there (Richard Wheeler)
* The Journals of Lewis Clark (John Bakeless)
* A Reforming People Puritanism and the transformation of public life in New England (David Hall)
* American Slavery American Freedom (Edmund S. Morgan)
* Early American Writing (Various Authors/Penguin Classics Publisher)
* Into the American Woods Negotiations on the Pennsylvania Frontier (James H. Merrell)
* New York Burning Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan (Jill Lepore)
* Body Ritual of the Nacirema (Horace Miner)

*If you have any questions about anything, the best way to reach me is email (*[*davisb3@leonschools.net*](mailto:davisb3@leonschools.net)*). I look forward to this year together!!*

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I have read the syllabus and agree with the above conditions (including approved book and movie list and using the cell reminder for the number listed):

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                  Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_