

**NATOMAS CHARTER'S
LEADING EDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
U.S. HISTORY SYLLABUS
2011-12**

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Course Description

Students will study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to Reconstruction and Industrialization. The Students will also review the development of America's democratic institutions founded on the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, and the shaping of the Constitution. Students will trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy, and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They will learn about the challenges facing the new nation with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Finally they will make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

Student Academic Expectations

1. Come to class on time, prepared, and ready to participate.
2. Involve yourself - Take part in class activities and discussions.
3. Complete your homework and class work thoroughly and to your best ability.
4. Turn in homework when due.
5. Maintain a positive attitude.

Student Behavioral Expectations

1. Students are expected to follow the rules described in the Natomas Charter Handbook at all times.
2. Show respect to the teacher and all students.
3. Follow all classroom procedures as set by teacher. Procedures will be discussed in class.
4. Practice good listening skills at all times.
5. Raise your hand during class discussions-BE COURTEOUS!
6. No talking out or foul language will be accepted.
7. Do not leave your seat. If you need to get out of your seat, raise your hand to get permission.
8. Appropriate classroom behavior and participation is expected at all times.

9. With the exception of bottled water, no food or drinks will be allowed in class. If water is spilled, please clean it up.
10. If you are caught copying another person's homework, you and the person that you are copying from will receive no credit! You cannot turn in the assignment into study lab.

Any behavior deemed disrespectful to students, teachers, or property will not be tolerated. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken accordingly in the form of a warning, detention, or referral.

What materials do I need everyday?

1. School binder with a section reserved for U.S. History
2. Composition Notebook
3. Pencils (at least 2 sharpened pencils)
4. Pens (black or blue ink only)

Grading Policies

Grading in the Leading Edge Program is holistic, meaning that a student's term grade is a reflection of more than just the number of points received on tests, projects, class work and homework. Turning in assignments on time and complete, as well as behavior in class will be considered in the trimester grades.

Students must show mastery of concepts and content to receive a passing trimester grade.

Assignments (homework and class work) are due when I call for them (normally at the beginning of class). If you failed to turn in the work when I called for it, it will not be accepted later in class. If this happens, you must turn the work into Study Lab.

Projects are due on the due date. No exceptions! They cannot be turned in late. Make sure that you complete your work early enough so that if there were any problems (i.e. printer ran out of ink, lost your work, dog ate it, etc.) you will still have time to fix the problem and turn in your work on time. Emailing me your paper on the morning your paper is due is not acceptable!

Grading Scale:

- 6 = Work must be completed with 98% accuracy
 - Has no missing or late assignments
 - Regularly participates in class with enthusiasm
 - Works very well in cooperative groups

- 5 = Completes work with at least a 90% accuracy
Has very few missing and/or late assignments
Regularly participates in class
Works well in cooperative groups
- 4 = Completes work with at least 80% accuracy
Has a few missing or late assignments
Participates in class
Generally works well in cooperative groups
- 3 = Completes work with at least 70% accuracy
May have several missing or late assignments
Usually participates in class
May have challenges working in cooperative groups
- 2 = Completes work with at least 60% accuracy
May have several missing or late assignments
Rarely participates in class
- 1 = Completes work with less than 60% accuracy
Several missing or late assignments
Shows little effort to improve

The following is a list of regular class assignments and their point value:

Tests:	100-200 points
Quizzes:	5-20 points
Homework:	10 points
Class work:	10-25 points
Projects:	25-100 points
Current Events:	10 points
Journal	10 points
Critical Thinking Questions	10 points

Point values are subject to change

Absent/Late Work

You are responsible for making up the work that you will miss when you are absent. You have the same number of days to turn in work as the number that you were absent. Make up tests must be done within one day of return to class or if absent two days, then two etc. Missing work that is not made up within the set time limits will not receive full credit. This applies to excused absences only.

Late work will not be accepted in class. Late work can be made up and turned in at Study Lab within two weeks for half credit. This does not apply to long-term projects.

Binder

You will be required to keep a section of your binder reserved for U.S. History. In this section you will keep all handouts, tests, notes, journal entries, and returned assignments. Periodically, a binder check will be made to ensure that the student is keeping his/her binder in a way that is conducive to learning and succeeding in this classroom.

It is the student's responsibility to keep all returned work in case any discrepancies in his/her grade arises. The only way to change a grade is to show me your previously graded assignment.