



Mr. Gutzwiller

Contact Information

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Facebook Resource: “Mr. Gutzwiller’s Eighth Grade Social Studies”

Why study American history? This class traces and analyzes the major cultural, political, and social themes of American history from the exploration of Christopher Columbus through the American Civil War Reconstruction Era. This class is to investigate *how, when, and why America developed into what it is today*. You will not only be introduced to the subject of United States history, but to the discipline of history itself with its distinctive modes of *question and interpretation*.

What will I do in this class? You will investigate the early history of the nation and then focus on national and Indiana state development through the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. This *interactive* emphasis is placed upon principles of the United States and Indiana Constitutions and the influence of political, geographic, economic, and cultural factors on the development of them.

What will I need for this class? You need to bring the following to social studies class **daily**:

- ✓ notebook
- ✓ writing utensil (pencil or black/blue pen)
- ✓ textbook
- ✓ personal folder

What is the class tardy record book? If you arrive to class *after* the bell, you must fill out the Class Tardy Record on the front cabinet---NO MATTER THE REASON. If you have a pass, please hand it to Mr. Gutzwiller after filling out the record book. (Always ask *for* a pass---even if you were with a teacher or an administrator.)

How are passes handled for this class? Class time is extremely valuable. You can miss a lot by being out of the class for five minutes. Passes will be honored at Mr. Gutzwiller’s discretion. *Remember: Just because you have a pass book does NOT mean your request to use the restroom or get a drink of water will be honored. Your pass book is a privilege, not a right!* It is recommended that restroom and drinking fountain use should be taken care of between classes.

What are the three main class goals?

- **Engage** what you learn into lifelong education.
- **Communicate** with the teacher and other peers.
- **Clarify your values** in life and to be sensitive to those held by others.

What is the homework policy for this class? You will have some written homework; however, the amount of written homework you have will depend on how well you use your time in class. It is imperative to know that you can always be reading your textbook---prior, current, and future content. You can also be preparing for weekly quizzes and tests. In most cases, if the written assignment is not turned in, a zero will be recorded and the school-wide homework policy will be implemented. However, excessive missing assignments may require a working lunch or before school work session at 7:30a.m.

“Before you judge others, make sure that YOU are perfect.”



How are absences handled for this class? When you return from an absence, check the *Absent Work* folder on the front cabinet for your work. (Your name will be on the missing work.) If you have any questions, speak to Mr. Gutzwiller immediately. This can be before or after class, during Take Twenty, or study hall. Do not interrupt class by checking the folder.

If your absence exceeds one day, you may request your work to be picked up at school during your absence. Simply contact the office to make arrangements. **THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!** After the granted time to make-up work expires, you will not be permitted to turn in the work. However, some exceptions may apply.

What is the patriot grade? You have been automatically given 30 points for a Patriot Grade. Two (2) points will be deducted each time you forget any type of supplies (books, pencils, etc.), missing assignments, tardiness, and/or inappropriate conduct. The grade will be factored each grading period (nine weeks). The patriot grade can hurt or help you in class; it is your choice.

What will go in your social studies notebook? You are expected to maintain a notebook for class. The notebook will be used to respond to current event issues, essential questions (described below), and other various activities to enhance the overall literacy skill standards expected in the eighth grade. These will include capitalization of proper nouns, interpretation of maps, timelines, and primary sources. Notebooks will be checked at the mid-term and end of each grading period (nine weeks). You must have your notebook daily!

How does class begin each day of the week? On Mondays, we will take time to explore the current issues in the news (locally, state, nation, and world.) This will be done through *CNN Kid News*, articles, and class discussions. Note: In unforeseen situations, current events may not be discussed on the planned schedule.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays are the Essential Question Days. On these days, you will be given a prompt (essential question) that allows you to take a higher-ordered question about a current class topic and respond to it in your notebook. When I check your notebook, I will be looking to see if you (1) stuck to the topic; (2) used interesting/ descriptive words; and (3) had good sentence structure. Writing one word down as your response will not earn you credit for this activity. Some of the prompts are open-ended; therefore, it allows you to say what you want to say as long as it is pertinent to the topic and well-supported. In addition to following the three components, you must also label your essential question (by week and day) to receive credit.

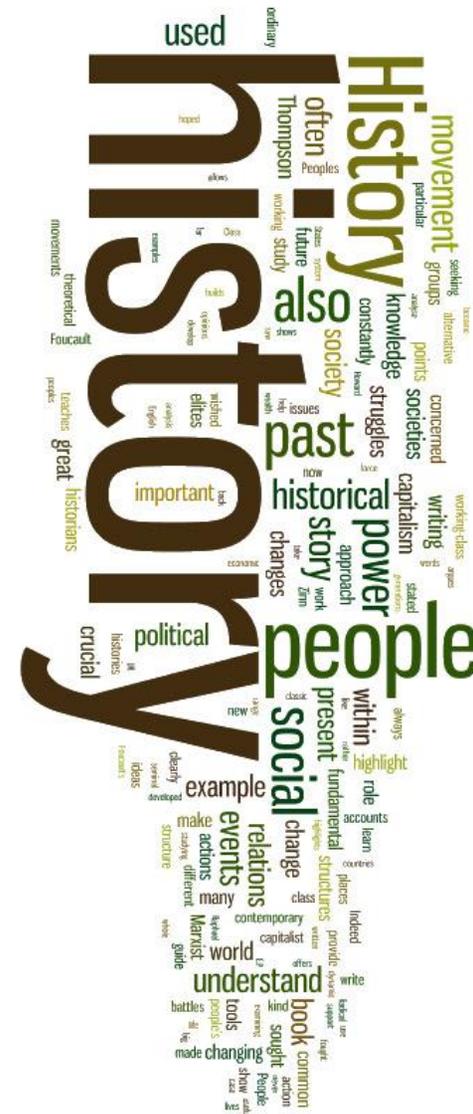
How are quizzes and tests structured for class? There will be various types of assessments to measure your knowledge of material learned in class. For the most part, we will have weekly quizzes (usually on Fridays) and unit tests that will cover various types of information from the textbook and class activities. Quizzes will consist of five (5) multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Unit tests will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer responses, and essay prompts. A review guide and core vocabulary handout will be provided at the start of each unit. They will be checked (in class) the day prior to the unit test.

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How can students and parents/guardians gain access to the social studies material outside of class? The class webpage, linked from the URL of www.uc.k12.in.us, contains up-to-date announcements, weekly lessons, and other various materials. You can also find the class in a closed group on *Facebook*. Simply look up “Mr. Gutzwiller’s Social Studies Class” and ask to join. This tool does comply with the approved school board policy and it allows for students and parents/guardians to communicate with me by asking questions on material along with sharing news articles pertaining to current issues and class content. Also, all parents/guardians on the *List Serve* will receive weekly e-mail updates about class from me. If you are not on the *List Serve*, you are strongly encouraged you to do so.

The class gradebook will be updated weekly, if not more often, throughout the year. I strongly encourage parents/guardians and students to check the gradebook regularly.



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