



8th Grade American Studies
Mr. Robert B. Strobel
Parent Information Letter 2008-09



Hello! My name is Mr. Robert Strobel and I am your child's Social Studies teacher this year. The purpose of this letter is to familiarize you with this course and my expectations for the coming academic year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Teacher Information

Mr. Robert B. Strobel

Room #304

(480) 472-9943

E-mail: rbstrobe@mpsaz.org

Hours available for tutoring: Tuesday & Thursday 3:35-4:25

Classroom Procedures

The most important thing needed for success in this class is self-discipline. It is each student's responsibility to do homework, study for tests, take proper notes, pick up missed work, and get involved in class projects and activities. Please come to class prepared and equipped to learn. Students should bring:

- A pencil or pen and line paper
- Student planner
- Highlighter
- Colored Pencils

Tests/quizzes:

Roughly 60% of your grade is based on tests and quizzes. Tests and quizzes may include these formats: multiple choice, true-false, matching, short answer, and essay. Tests are worth 200 points, quizzes 100 points. Students will have @ 4 tests per quarter and a varied number of surprise and announced quizzes per quarter. About 40% of your grade is based on class work (participation), and homework. Anybody who does not receive a 70% or better on a TEST or QUIZ must retake that TEST or QUIZ until they receive a 70% or better. Once they retake the test or quiz, however, the highest grade they can receive is a 75%. Students who scored below a 70% and refuse to retake a test or quiz will receive their original score for that exam and the student's parents will be notified. Students can retake tests or quizzes before or after school. If a student comes in before school, they will need a pass directly from me to enter the building. They should obtain the pass the day before.

H omework

Homework is generally used for enrichment and grades are based on effort and accuracy. Homework is assigned on average 1-2 times per week. All papers that are turned in must have the student's name and period on them to receive full credit.

C lasswork/extra credit:

Students who refuse to participate in a day's activity will be given a grade of "0" for that assignment. 2 extra-credit assignments will be available and announced midway through the quarter.

W eekly Grades:

Grades will be posted every Friday. Students will write their grade into their planners and I will initial next to it. This allows you to monitor their grades throughout the school year. Grades follow the standard system of:

90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D 0-59=F

M aking Up Work

Students who are absent will be given 2 days for each day absent to complete their assignment per Mesa district policy. A student who does not turn in an assignment/homework on time will fail the assignment. However, the student can receive a maximum grade of 50% for the assignment if it is turned in completely and correctly done.

D iscipline

I have 5 main classroom rules:

1. Respect people and property
2. Be on time to class
3. Ask for permission to use equipment or to leave your seat
4. Raise your hand when asking a question
5. No drinks (except water), food, or cell phones of any kind.

*Those students who have difficulty following class rules will be put on the school discipline cycle. I will contact you if there are any severe discipline problems that you should know about.

S cope and Sequence

The Scope and Sequence of this course is attached. Please review it. All subject matter/objectives are aligned to meet the Arizona State Standards for Social Studies for the 8th grade. They are available to read on line through our school website or the AZ. Dept. of Education website

F ILMS:

During the year classes will see a number of films that relate to the curriculum. All of these films are school appropriate. However, if there is a film that you DO NOT want your child to see, please let me know on the parent signature form. (Attached)

- The Ernest Green Story (Disney)
- Hiroshima (BBC History of WW2)
- Surviving the Dust Bowl (American Experience: PBS)
- Inside the White House (National Geographic)
- Hoover Dam (American Experience: PBS)
- True Whispers: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers (PBS)
- The Devil Came on Horseback (Darfur Documentary)
- Arlington: Field of Honor (National Geographic)
- Bataan Rescue (PBS)
- Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon: (IMAX)
- Hitler In Colour (BBC Documentary)
- The Crossing (Film on Washington's Crossing of the Delaware River)

T extbook:

The Textbook for this class is American History published by McDougal Littell. There will be a class set of books for the students. Textbooks will not be issued to students to take home. Seldom do I use the textbook outside of the classroom. Additionally, most of their homework will be done through guided notes and activity handouts. The textbook is available on-line if you wish to utilize it. Please follow these simple directions to utilize this feature.

1. Go to www.classzone.com
2. Select "middle school social studies" for your subject.
3. Select "Arizona" for your state.
4. Click "find your book" and choose "American History."
5. Go to the bottom of the page and click "online book."
6. Click "create student account."
7. Fill in the information requested.

The ISBN # is: 0-618-55671-0

Keep the classroom policies in your binder but turn in this paper to Mr. Strobel and receive an automatic 20 points to your grade!!!!!!

Student name (print):

Student sign:

Parent name (print):

Parent sign:

Films I Do Not Want My Child to View:
