



Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School

8th Grade Humanities Course Syllabus

2022-2023



epms.egusd.net

Student Services: 683-7688

PARENTS: After reading the syllabus, please complete this Google Form. Thank you!

Course Description

Students will examine the development of the United States from the shaping of the American Revolution through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will learn practical application of the writing process and demonstrate skills in various styles of writing. Grade level Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in language arts and reading will be integrated with the California State Department of Education social science curriculum standards, creating a cohesive and seamless humanities curriculum. Students will focus on the understanding of democratic and civic principles, the nation's history and constitutional heritage, and the rights and responsibilities of all citizens. Skills emphasized include critical thinking, reading, outlining, note-taking, writing composition, citing text, and test preparation.

Overview of 8th Grade Humanities (Language Arts and Social Science)

Students will:

- write clear and focused compositions which demonstrate skills of research, organization, evaluation, and revision.
- demonstrate a command of the grammar and mechanics of writing and speaking.
- create original informative, argument, and narrative writing.
- read, understand, and respond to narrative and informational text.
- demonstrate knowledge of United States history from the Revolution to the post-Civil War era.
- analyze the principles underlying the nation's founding documents.

Specific Course Standards

The CCSS for this course can be found by linking to the Elk Grove Unified School District home page at www.egusd.net, or the California State Department of Education at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/standards/>. Click to show the specific standards for English-Language Arts and History-Social Science. EPMS courses combine the grade level standards from both these areas.

8th Grade Humanities Scope and Sequence

Students will attend Humanities class daily, for all four terms of the school year. One grade for Humanities will be issued at the end of each nine week term. Readings in literature, specific lessons in writing, language arts, and social science content areas will be articulated across the four terms according to the following:

Term 1

- Colonial America, Spirit of Independence, American Revolution, More Perfect Union and The Constitution
- Writing: Paragraph structure, Narrative, Informational
- StudySync: Unit 1 Suspense!
- Grammar and mechanics
- Novel: *Cast Two Shadows*

Term 2

- The Federalist Era, Jefferson Era, Growth and Expansion, Age of Jackson, Manifest Destiny
- StudySync: Unit 2 In Time of War
- Grammar and mechanics
- Writing: Argumentative research, on demand

Term 3

- North and South, The Spirit of Reform, Toward Civil War
- Writing: Informative, on demand
- DBQ: Causes of the Civil War
- StudySync: Unit 3 A Moral Compass, poetry
- Grammar and mechanics
- Novel: Historical Fiction student choice

Term 4

- Civil War, and Reconstruction
- Writing: Informative. What does it mean to be American?
- StudySync: Unit 4 The Civil War
- Grammar and mechanics

Textbooks

Social Studies textbook- *Impact: United States History and Geography*, published by McGraw Hill hardback textbook and consumable Inquiry Journal

ELA textbook- *StudySync 8*, published by BookheadEd Learning.

Novel

***Cast Two Shadows* by Ann Rinaldi**

This novel is set in 1780 and war has come to Camden, South Carolina. Caroline Whitaker's father is in prison for refusing to pledge allegiance to the king; her brother, Johnny, is away fighting for the Loyalists; and Caroline is confined with her mother and sister to an upstairs chamber while British colonel Lord Francis Rawdon occupies their spacious plantation house. Caroline soon learns that Johnny is injured and needs her help. Thus begins a journey that will have Caroline question all she holds dear.

Student Choice

During third term students will choose a historical fiction novel that is of interest to them to read, analyze and present to the class. Giving students a choice allows them to take ownership of their learning and create a meaningful product that is authentic to them. Details and guidelines will be announced during the school year.

Grading Policy

A single grade will be reported for the Humanities course. Per the EGUSD guidelines for grading, the following is a general guide used to determine grades, based on the percentage of points earned by the student.

90 – 100%	A Student's work is exceptional compared to his/her grade level
80 – 89%	B Student's work is above average for his/her grade level
70 – 79%	C Student's work is average for his/her grade level
60 – 69%	D Student's work is below average for his/her grade level
below 60%	F Student has failed to meet minimum standards for his/her grade level

Homework and Makeup Work

Homework is assigned for several reasons:

- for practice and reinforcement of lessons covered in class.
- for preparation so that students begin a lesson with important background information.
- for extension, providing the student with an opportunity to apply the lessons of the day to more complex tasks or projects.
- for completion of work started in class.

Homework may be assigned daily including over weekends or longer breaks for any or all of the above reasons. Due dates and expectations for large assignments will be given in advance, and students are expected to plan their time to accomplish all the assigned tasks. Students missing school due to excused absences are expected to complete **all** missing homework assignments in a timely manner. **Makeup work policies for all excused and unexcused absences will follow EGUSD guidelines.**

Classroom Expectations	
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow all classroom rules ● Listen to the person speaking ● Wait your turn ● Maintain attentive posture ● Treat all materials and property with respect ● Be in the classroom before the tardy bell
Be Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be prepared to participate appropriately ● Arrive on time ● Bring necessary materials and supplies ● Give your best effort ● Clean up after yourself
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Walk at all times ● Maintain personal space ● Keep aisles clear of personal belongings

Required Supplies for Humanities

- Course textbooks and supplemental novels (Please note: students are required to cover their textbooks to prevent wear and tear. Students are responsible for any damages to, and/or loss of their books.)
- Consumable ELA & Social Studies textbook is required daily and must be replaced at student expense if it is lost and/or becomes unusable.
- School issued agenda. This is a great tool to help keep students organized.

Recommended Supplies for Humanities

- Writing utensils: pencils, pens in blue or black (for school work), 1 red pen (for correcting)
- Colored pencils, personal pencil sharpener with a shavings cap
- Highlighters: red (pink), yellow, and green
- Four 3-prong folders (1 per term)
- Composition book 100 sheets (non-spiral bound, college-ruled preferred)
- Glue sticks
- Binder paper
- 3x5 Notecards

Communication Between Home and School

Students will record daily work and homework in their student agenda. Parents can help their students by reviewing the agenda often with their child. Progress reports indicating a student's in-progress grade will be published by EPMS approximately every 4 weeks, which is halfway through a term's grading period. Final grades will be issued at the end of each 9-week term.

Google Classroom

Teachers will be providing students with the class code to sign into the classroom. This will be the platform to provide students with classroom activities and homework.

Synergy

EPMS uses Synergy, an online program which provides a convenient opportunity for parent-teacher communication. Students will have access to a personal "course locker" for storing their digital work. We recommend that students save a backup of their work to their course lockers. A free app is available to view Synergy on mobile devices.

ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The staff of Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School expects the highest standards of honesty and fairness from all students. Promoting the ideals of education, responsibility, and self-discipline are essential. Therefore, to protect everyone's right to a fair and meaningful evaluation, this **ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT** has been adopted.

- A student who exhibits any behavior which in the judgment of the teacher indicates dishonesty while taking an examination, quiz, or any assignment shall receive a zero for that exercise and it may not be made up. In addition, the student will be referred to their counselor.
- A student who copies an assignment from another student shall receive a zero for that assignment, and the student who allows an assignment to be copied shall also receive a zero and it may not be made up.
- A student who, for the purpose of cheating on an examination or assessment, enters a classroom carrying evidence of premeditation – such as aids, notes, or another student's notes are not allowed – shall receive a zero for that examination and it may not be made up. In addition, the student will be referred to an administrator.
- A student who is apprehended for taking, without permission, another student's written assignment or project for personal use or academic credit shall receive a zero for that assignment and will receive disciplinary consequences for theft. The assignment may not be made up.
- A student who displays unethical behavior and/or is involved in any other activity for the purpose of cheating, altering, or falsifying records, removing or copying of any materials (student, teacher, or other), etc. shall be disciplined as follows:
 - a. A student enrolled in the course in which the infraction occurred shall receive a grade of "F" for the assignment/examination for which the infraction takes place. Also, the infraction may affect any awards or honors the student may receive. This will be at the discretion of the committee(s) in charge of the awards. The student may receive disciplinary consequences.
 - b. A student NOT enrolled in a course, however, who is involved in such an infraction, shall receive disciplinary consequences.

A student who plagiarizes any print or online material and presents it as his/her own will receive a zero for that assignment and may not make up the assignment.

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