**8th Grade Georgia History Syllabus**

**Aaron Cohn Middle School**

**L. Marstin**

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**CANVAS website:** [**https://mcsd.instructure.com/courses/33983**](https://mcsd.instructure.com/courses/33983)

**School Phone: 706.569.3801**

**Welcome Parents and Students**

Welcome to the study of our amazing state! We hold a fascinating place in the story of America. Georgia boasts such unique attributes as Stone Mountain, Native American sites, Civil War battles, international businesses, acclaimed authors, professional sports franchises, and places that hold tremendous historical significance. From the Appalachian Mountains to the Barrier Islands, from Atlanta to Columbus to Savannah, from urban expansion to swamps Georgia is a diverse and truly magnificent place.

**Course Description**

This course will familiarize students with the geography, history, economy, personalities, and government of Georgia as set in the larger context of American history. Major topics include:

* Georgia Geography
* Exploration and Colonization
* Statehood
* The Civil War
* The New South
* 20th Century and Post-WWII
* Civil Rights
* Modern Georgia
* State and Local Governments
* Adult and Juvenile Justice
* Personal Finance

**Course Objectives**

Students will participate in a variety of classroom activities designed to enhance academic and critical thinking skills. These endeavors include lectures, discussions, oral presentations, writing and note-taking, simulations, research activities using the computer, class competitions, creating visual and/or audio displays, map-making, and both individual and group assignments. We will utilize technology often as a class and as individual students. The outcome should be well-rounded students that understand the material and are prepared for the move to high school.

**Materials**

The students will need the following to successfully complete this class:

* Georgia history textbook (a class set is provided)
* Composition notebook with at least 100 pages
* Pencils and/or pens (blue or black)
* Notebook paper
* Colored pencils, crayons, and/or markers
* Flash drive (for convenient file save/transfer)
* Smart phone, tablet, etc. (if possible)
* Glue sticks

I try to have requisite supplies on hand, like colored pencils, markers, glue sticks, etc., but some students may prefer their own. The community supplies tend to dwindle quickly.

**Grading Structure**

The assignments given throughout the year will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Standard assignments – these grades will count once on a scale of 0-100 (homework, daily activities, quizzes)
2. Advanced assignments – these grades count twice on a scale of 0-100 (exams, minor projects, medium presentations)
3. Project assignments - these grades will count four times on a scale of 0-100 (major projects)

Additionally, there will be a column in the grade book designated “Extra Credit.” These points can be earned in a variety of ways and will often be offered spontaneously. For example, providing needed classroom supplies, outstanding contributions or observations related to our material, winning a classroom competition, and support for our student body activities often earn boosts in this area.

**Late Work/ Make-up Work**

Assignments submitted past the deadline are considered late and will be marked as such in Infinite Campus so that parents will know there is a problem. For each day past the due date, the assignment will have a 10 point reduction. After five days I will no longer accept the assignment. I will have specific assignments (called DBQs) that may be allowed as a replacement in some cases. A maximum grade of 70 may be earned in this case. I can’t stress enough how important it is that students be aware of and meet deadlines for assignments. If circumstances require that I change the deadline to accommodate unforeseen situations, the new deadline will be used to designate late work. Any student that turns in their work by the original deadline will receive extra credit in the spirit of fairness.

**Discipline/Rules**

Discipline issues are handled as described in the Aaron Cohn handbook. I try to keep most of the issues on the “local” level but will escalate them to include the front office if necessary. I will call and email parents as needed so we can work together to solve any problems that may arise. I’m available by phone or email and for parent conferences as well. The following are a few specific expectations:

* Students are to enter the class in an orderly fashion and be prepared to begin class.
* Please bring needed supplies (notebook, pencils/pens, assignments, etc.) each day.
* Respect teachers, classmates, and themselves at all times.
* Academic honesty is mandatory.
* Proper classroom behavior includes taking notes, listening, asking and answering questions.
* Think. A wrong answer is not a problem; we will think our way to an accurate conclusion.
* Restrooms are for dire emergencies only.
* Students returning from an absence are responsible for obtaining and completing any work they missed.
* Devices are encouraged but will be used when only instructed and in proper fashion.
* Other rules will be discussed at appropriate times.

Students that do not follow class rules and etiquette will experience consequences based on our house discipline system. Warnings may be issued for minor offenses, but more serious disciplinary actions will be taken for more serious offenses.

**Communication and Online Availability**

I send weekly email updates to keep parents abreast of our progress. A convenience that I offer is the Remind app for simple text reminders (exams, assignments, meetings, etc.) and to quickly share changes to our itinerary. Text the code **@lmarsti** to 81010 from your cell phone to sign up for these free notifications. Also, I post most class materials (those not restricted by copyright) to the district Canvas website.

**Please sign (please do not tear off).**

We have read and understood the 8th grade Georgia History syllabus and agree to all class rules for conduct and participation.

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

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

Best number to reach parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Best email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_