

8th Grade American Studies Course Syllabus

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
1	<p>Introduction to American Government</p> <p>Big Idea: Governments may be organized in different ways.</p> <p>Essential Questions: What is the purpose of government? How does a government decide how much power is enough?</p>	<p>Government</p> <p><i>(20) – The U.S. Constitution established a federal system of government, a representative democracy and a framework with separation of powers and checks & balances</i></p> <p><i>(21) – The U.S. Constitution protects citizens' rights by limiting the powers of the government</i></p>	<p>(20) Describe and give examples of how the U.S. Constitution created a federal system, representative democracy, separation of powers, and checks and balances.</p> <p>(21) Describe and evaluate how the U.S. Constitution protects citizen's rights by limiting the powers of government</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
2	<p>Colonization To Independence</p> <p>Big Idea: Exploration and colonization is a means of increasing wealth and power.</p> <p>Essential Questions: Why do countries want to expand their boundaries? What happens when two cultures collide? How did slavery affect our country?</p> <p>Big Idea: The growth, distribution and movements of people are driving forces behind human and physical events.</p> <p>Essential Questions: What effect does the environment have on individuals? What effect do individuals have on the environment?</p>	<p>History <i>(2) – North America, originally inhabited by American Indians, was explored and colonized by Europeans for economic and religious reasons</i></p> <p><i>(3) – Competition for control of territory and resources in North America led to conflicts among colonizing powers</i></p> <p><i>(4) – The practice of race-based slavery led to the forced migration of Africans to the American colonies. Their knowledge and traditions contributed to the development of those colonies and the United States.</i></p> <p>Geography <i>(14) – The availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States, sometimes resulting in unintended consequences.</i></p> <p><i>(15) – The Movement of people, products, and ideas resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use that influenced the political and economic development of the United States</i></p> <p>Economics <i>(22) – Choices made by individuals, businesses and governments have both present and future consequences</i></p>	<p>(2) Explain the economic and religious reasons for the exploration and colonization of North America by Europeans</p> <p>(3) Explain how competition for control of territory and resources in North America led to conflicts among colonizing powers</p> <p>(4) Explain how the practice of race-based slavery led to the forced migration of Africans to the American colonies</p> <p>(4) Describe the contributions of enslaved and free Africans to cultural and economic development in different regions of the American colonies</p> <p>(14) Analyze how the availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States. Explain how this sometimes resulted in unintended environmental consequences.</p> <p>(15) Describe the movement of people, products and ideas that resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use and analyze its impact on the political and economic development of the U.S.</p> <p>(22) Analyze how choices made by individuals, businesses and government have both present and future consequences.</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>3</p> <p>10 days (2 wks)</p> <p>*Finish wk of Oct 22</p> <p>*END 1st Quarter</p>	<p><i>Causes of the American Revolution</i></p> <p>Big Idea: Individuals working together can change the world.</p> <p>Essential Questions:</p> <p>How did the ideas of Enlightenment lead to the American colonists' desire for independence?</p> <p>How did the American colonists' relationship with Britain lead to the yearning of independence?</p> <p>How can individuals in groups bring about change in society?</p> <p>How does the use of media and communication technology influence public opinion?</p> <p>What are some ways in which governments try to influence the economy? What are the desired effects of this involvement?</p>	<p><u>History</u> <i>(5) – The Ideas of the Enlightenment and dissatisfaction with colonial rule led English colonies to write the Declaration of Independence and launch the American Revolution.</i></p> <p><u>Government</u> <i>(18) – Participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals</i></p> <p><i>(19) – Informed citizens understand how media and communication technology influence public opinion</i></p> <p><u>Economics</u> <i>(24) – Governments can impact markets by means of spending, regulations, taxes, & trade barriers</i></p>	<p>(5) <u>Connect</u> the ideas of the Enlightenment and dissatisfaction with colonial rule to the writing of the Declaration of Independence and launching of the American Revolution.</p> <p>(18) <u>Explain</u> how participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals.</p> <p>(19) <u>Explain</u> how media and communication technology influence public opinion</p> <p>(24) <u>Explain</u> the impact government can have on markets by spending, regulating, taxing and creating trade barriers.</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>4</p> <p>15 days (3 wks)</p> <p>*Finish wk of Nov 12</p>	<p>1776 – 1783</p>	<p><i>History</i></p> <p><i>(5) – The Ideas of the Enlightenment and dissatisfaction with colonial rule led English colonies to write the Declaration of Independence and launch the American Revolution.</i></p> <p><i>(6) – The outcome of the American Revolution was national independence and new political, social, and economic relationships for the American people.</i></p>	<p>(5) Connect the ideas of the Enlightenment and dissatisfaction with colonial rule to the writing of the Declaration of Independence and launching of the American Revolution.</p> <p>(6) Analyze the new political, social and economic relationships for the American people that resulted from the American Revolution.</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>5</p> <p>15 days (3 wks)</p> <p>*Thanks to Winter Break</p>	<p><i>The Critical Period</i></p>	<p><u>History</u> <i>(6) – The outcome of the American Revolution was national independence and new political, social, and economic relationships for the American people.</i></p> <p><i>(7) – Problems arising under the Articles of Confederation led to debate over the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.</i></p> <p><u>Geography</u> <i>(15) – The movement of people, products, and ideas resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use that influenced the political and economic development of the United States</i></p> <p><u>Government</u> <i>(19) – Informed citizens understand how media and communication technology influence public opinion</i></p> <p><i>(20) – The U.S. Constitution established a federal system of government, a representative democracy and a framework with separation of powers and checks and balances</i></p> <p><i>(21) – The U.S. Constitution protects citizens' rights by limiting the powers of government</i></p>	<p>(6) Analyze the new political, social and economic relationships for the American people that resulted from the American Revolution.</p> <p>(7) Explain how the problems arising under the Articles of Confederation led to debate over the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>(15) Describe the movement of people, products and ideas that resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use and analyze its impact on the political and economic development of the U.S.</p> <p>(19) Explain how media and communication technology influence public opinion</p> <p>(20) Describe and give examples of how the U.S. Constitution created a federal system, representative democracy, separation of powers, and checks and balances.</p> <p>(21) Describe and evaluate how the U.S. Constitution protects citizen's rights by limiting the powers of government</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>6</p> <p>POST WINTER BREAK</p> <p><i>*Up until end of 2nd Quarter (Jan 28th?)</i></p>	<p>Launching A Nation</p> <p>Big Idea: The growth, distribution and movements of people are driving forces behind human and physical events.</p> <p>Essential Questions: What effect have people had on the government? What effect has the government had on people? How has the development of the United States' social, cultural, economic, and political institutions defined it as a unique nation in the world?</p>	<p>History <i>(8)Actions of early presidential administrations established a strong federal government, provided peaceful transitions of power and repelled a foreign invasion</i></p> <p>Geography <i>(14) – The availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States, sometimes resulting in unintended consequences.</i></p> <p><i>(15) - The movement of people, products and their ideas resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use that influenced the political and economic development of the United States</i></p> <p><i>(17) – Americans began to develop a common national identity among its diverse regional and cultural populations based on democratic ideals.</i></p> <p>Economics <i>(22) – Choices made by individuals, businesses, and governments have both present and future consequences</i></p> <p><i>(24) – Governments can impact markets by means of spending, regulations, taxes, and trade barriers</i></p>	<p>(8) Explain how the actions of early presidential administrations established a strong federal government, provided peaceful transitions of power and repelled a foreign invasion.</p> <p>(14) Analyze how the availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States. Explain how this sometimes resulted in unintended environmental consequences.</p> <p>(15) Describe the movement of people, products and ideas that resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use and analyze its impact on the political and economic development of the U.S.</p> <p>(17) Identify the developments that helped bring about a common national identity for Americans and describe the democratic ideals around which that identity is based.</p> <p>(22) Analyze how choices made by individuals, businesses and government have both present and future consequences.</p> <p>(24) Explain the impact government can have on markets by spending, regulating, taxing and creating trade barriers</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>7</p> <p>15 day (3 wks)</p> <p><i>*Up until Feb. 20th/wk of the 18th</i></p>	<p>Westward Expansion</p> <p>Big Idea: Westward Expansion was a factor in the growth of American economic power and the expansion of democracy.</p> <p>Essential Questions: How did American ideals conflict with other populations?</p>	<p><u>History</u> <i>(9) – The United States added to its territory through treaties and purchases</i></p> <p><i>(10) – Westward expansion contributed to economic and industrial development, debates over sectional issues, war with Mexico, and the displacement of American Indians</i></p> <p><u>Geography</u> <i>(14) – The availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States, sometimes resulting in unintended consequences.</i></p> <p><i>(15) - The movement of people, products and their ideas resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use that influenced the political and economic development of the United States</i></p> <p><i>(16) – Cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole</i></p> <p><u>Economics</u> <i>(24) – Governments can impact markets by means of spending, regulations, taxes, and trade barriers</i></p>	<p>HISTORY (9) Describe how the United States added to its territory through treaties and purchases.</p> <p>(10) Explain how westward expansion contributed to economic and industrial development, debates over sectional issues, war with Mexico and the displacement of American Indians.</p> <p>GEOGRAPHY (14) Analyze how the availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States. Explain how this sometimes resulted in unintended environmental consequences.</p> <p>(15) Describe the movement of people, products and ideas that resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use and analyze its impact on the political and economic development of the U.S.</p> <p>(16) Explain how cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole.</p> <p>ECONOMICS (24) Explain the impact government can have on markets by spending, regulating, taxing and creating trade barriers</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>8</p> <p>7days (wk and ½)</p> <p>*Up until wk of March 4th</p>	<p>Reform Movements</p> <p>Big Idea:</p> <p>Essential Questions: In what ways does U.S. history illustrate the effects of being a society that periodically undergoes reform?</p>	<p>Geography <i>(16) – Cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole</i></p> <p>Government <i>(18) – Participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals</i></p> <p><i>(19) – Informed citizens understand how media and communication technology influence public opinion</i></p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY (16) Explain how cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole.</p> <p>(18) Explain how participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals.</p> <p>GOVERNMENT (19) Explain how media and communication technology influence public opinion</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>9</p> <p>15-20 days (4 wks)</p> <p>*Up until end of 3rd Quarter</p>	<p><i>Causes of and Lead Up to the Civil War</i></p> <p><i>Pre-Civil War</i></p>	<p><u>History</u> <i>(11) – Disputes over the nature of federalism, complicated by economic developments in the United States, resulted in sectional issues, which included slavery, which led to the American Civil War</i></p> <p><u>Government</u> <i>(18) – Participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals</i></p> <p><i>(19) – Informed citizens understand how media and communication technology influence public opinion</i></p> <p><u>Economics</u> <i>(23) The industrial Revolution fundamentally changed the means of production as a result of improvements in technology, use of new power resources, the advent of interchangeable parts and the shift from craftwork to factory work.</i></p> <p><i>(24) – Governments can impact markets by means of spending, regulations, taxes, and trade barriers</i></p>	<p>(11) Distinguish between the positions of the sections of the United States on sectional issues of the 1820s through the 1850s. (11) Illustrate how disputes over the nature of federalism fed into sectional issues and helped lead to the American Civil War.</p> <p>(18) Explain how participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals.</p> <p>(19) Explain how media and communication technology influence public opinion</p> <p>(23) Analyze how the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th and early 19th centuries changed the means of production.</p> <p>(24) Explain the impact government can have on markets by spending, regulating, taxing and creating trade barriers</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
10	<i>The American Civil War</i>	<p><u>History</u> <i>(11) – Disputes over the nature of federalism, complicated by economic developments in the United States, resulted in sectional issues, which included slavery, which led to the American Civil War</i></p> <p><u>Government</u> <i>(21) – The U.S. Constitution protects citizens' rights by limiting the powers of the government</i></p>	<p>(11) Distinguish between the positions of the sections of the United States on sectional issues of the 1820s through the 1850s. (11) Illustrate how disputes over the nature of federalism fed into sectional issues and helped lead to the American Civil War.</p> <p>(21) Describe and evaluate how the U.S. Constitution protects citizen's rights by limiting the powers of government</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
<p>11</p> <p>10 days (2 wks)</p> <p>*April 29th – May 10th</p>	<p>Reconstruction</p>	<p><u>History</u></p> <p><i>(12) – The Reconstruction period resulted in changes to the U.S. Constitution, an affirmation of federal authority and lingering social and political differences</i></p> <p><u>Geography</u></p> <p><i>(16) – Cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole</i></p> <p><u>Government</u></p> <p><i>(21) – The U.S. Constitution protects citizens' rights by limiting the powers of the government</i></p>	<p>(12) Describe how the Reconstruction period resulted in changes to the U.S. Constitution, an affirmation of federal authority, and lingering social and political differences.</p> <p>(16) Explain how cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole.</p> <p>(21) Describe and evaluate how the U.S. Constitution protects citizen's rights by limiting the powers of government</p>

Unit	Title	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
12 *D.C. Trip Weeks	Personal Finance & Economics Big Idea: Financial Literacy leads to financial security. Essential Questions: How do we create financial literacy?	Economics <i>(25) – The effective management of one’s own personal finances includes using basic banking services (e.g., savings accounts and checking accounts) and credit.</i>	(25) Demonstrate how effective management of one’s personal finances includes using basic banking services (e.g., savings accounts, checking accounts) and credit.

The following two Strands / Content Statements are NOT specifically included in any of the above units, as it was decided by the 8th grade American Studies PLC that these were more SKILL-ORIENTED, and therefore could be included at various points throughout the year.

	Strands & Content Statements	Student Expectations
History	<i>(1) - Primary & secondary sources are used to examine events from multiple perspectives and to present and defend a position</i>	<i>(1) Analyze primary and secondary sources to describe the different perspectives on an issue relating to a historical event in U.S. History and to present and defend a position.</i>
Geography	<i>(13) – Modern and historical maps and other geographic tools are used to analyze how historic events are shaped by geography</i>	<i>(13) Analyze the ways in which historical events are shaped by geography using modern and historical maps and other geographic tools.</i>