

**Ingram Middle School**  
**U.S. History, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**2024-2025**

Instructor: Mrs. O'Dowd  
Email: jodowd@ingramisd.net  
Phone: (830)955-8548 Ext. 219  
Conference: 1<sup>st</sup> period – 7:50-8:44

Room 219

**Course Description:**

U.S. History is a year-long course that serves as an overview of the first half of U.S. History. The major emphasis in this course is the study of significant people, events, and issues from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Critical thinking skills, processing skills, writing, and the evaluation of primary and secondary documents will be expanded on in this class.

**Grading:**

60% Daily Work

- DBQs, Writing Assignments, Minor projects, Homework, Classwork, Exit slips

40% Assessments/Projects

- Unit Exams, Major Projects, Weekly Quizzes (weighted less than test)

**Unit Exams/Test grades:**

Tests in this class will be made up of multiple choice questions and open ended questions. Projects (which have a written portion) are also considered test grades.

**Late Work:**

Homework will be due at the *beginning* of class on the due date assigned. Any homework not submitted by the due date will be considered late work. 10 points will be deducted each day the assignment is late. After 3 days, late work will not be accepted and a zero will be given for the grade.

**Classroom Materials:**

Every student is required to bring a *black* or *blue* pen and their AVID binder to class every day. The binder will stay in your backpack each day. Please have paper, highlighters, and markers or color pencils in your backpack for use, as needed.

**Make-Up Work:**

You have 2 days for each absence to make-up work from an absence. Please turn in directly to Mrs. O'Dowd.

**Academic Honesty:**

Cheating and plagiarism have strict consequences in this class. Copying is also not allowed and if discovered, all parties will receive consequences. Cheating on a quiz or test will be an automatic office referral.

**Tutorials:**

Whenever you need help on anything we are learning or doing in class, please do not hesitate to get with me for help. You can visit me before school or after school most days but check with me first. Please have your notes with you from class when you come to see me for help. Take advantage of this!

**Assessments:**

If you miss a quiz/test you will need to find time before or after school to make up that assessment. Class time will not be given.

**Grade Improvement Opportunities**

If you have failed a minor or major grade, you have 5 days to improve your grade in the presence of a teacher. The highest grade you can make for a minor assignment is 70% and for a major assessment is 75%.

**Extra Credit**

Extra credit is not given in this class.

**Classroom Rules:**

- 1) Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn every day
- 2) Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students and yourself
- 3) Be responsible for your own learning
- 4) Clean up after yourself and your peers

**Consequences:**

First Time: Verbal Warning

Second Time: Warning marked on the clipboard

\*Parent Phone Call after 3rd marked warning

\*Lunch D-Hall/Referral will be assigned with the 4<sup>th</sup> marked warning in a given 6 Weeks.

**Long Term Plan:**

The tentative course outline for this course follows.

<b>Weeks 2-4:</b>	<b>Unit 1 European Exploration and Colonization</b>
<b>Weeks 5-9:</b>	<b>Unit 2 The American Revolution</b>
<b>Weeks 10-14:</b>	<b>Unit 3 Constitution and Government</b>
<b>Weeks 15-18:</b>	<b>Unit 4/5 Early Republic Era: Washington to Jackson</b>
<b>Weeks 19-21:</b>	<b>Unit 6 Industrial Revolution and Reform</b>
<b>Weeks 22-23:</b>	<b>Unit 7 Manifest Destiny and Expansion</b>
<b>Weeks 24-28:</b>	<b>Unit 8 The American Civil War and Reconstruction</b>
<b>Week 29:</b>	<b>FLEX 5 Extra Days to build in for Benchmarks, etc</b>
<b>Weeks 30-33:</b>	<b>STAAR review and STAAR test</b>
<b>Weeks 34-36:</b>	<b>Final Project</b>

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to U.S. History! I will have the privilege of teaching your son or daughter this year. My name is Jennifer O'Dowd, and I am a graduate of Sam Houston State University with my major in History and two minors in Social Science Composite and Secondary Education. This is my 15<sup>th</sup> year teaching, 14<sup>th</sup> year in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History. I taught my first 4 years at IDEA Frontier College Prep in Brownsville, the next 2 years at IDEA San Benito College Prep (both part of IDEA Public Schools), and the next 6 years at Hal Peterson Middle School. This is my third year at Ingram Middle School and I'm looking forward to this year!

We have many important skills to master and exciting facts to learn this year. I will challenge your children in this class, and I believe they can succeed in whatever they do as long as they work hard. Every student is capable of doing Excellent Work. We are in for a GREAT year and I will keep you informed on your student's progress throughout the course of the year.

Any time that you may have questions about my class, your child's grades, or his/her progress in the class, feel free to email or call me. I am always willing to make appointments to discuss anything that may be on your mind. Below is my contact information:

Jennifer O'Dowd – room 219  
Phone #: (830)367-4012 Ext. 219  
Email: [jodowd@ingramisd.net](mailto:jodowd@ingramisd.net)

This will be a great school year!

Sincerely,

Jennifer O'Dowd

### REMIND Information:

1. Send a text to  
81010
2. Text this message  
[@odowd2425](sms:81010)

## Signature Page

Student:

I have read the syllabus and have been told of the rules and consequences of this class. I will abide by all classroom and school rules. I understand my responsibilities as a student in this class.

Student Name Print \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent:

I have received and read the parent letter and syllabus sent home with my child. I know that the discipline plan can be found on the syllabus and that if I have any questions I may contact the teacher.

Parent Name Print \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle Preferred method of contact    **EMAIL**    or    **PHONE**