

Student name _____

Parent name (**printed**) _____

Advisory _____

Parent *signature* _____

Boston Collegiate Charter School 2011-2012
6th Grade History Course Description
Modern America and Geography

Ms. Everett

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Course Overview

This course focuses on Modern America and related geography. In our study of Modern America, we will begin with the Abolition Movement and the Civil War and conclude with the post WWII struggles focusing on the Civil Rights Movement. Geography skills will be incorporated into each unit and focus on places that correspond with each unit. Within each unit, there will also be a continual development of civics, current events, and other social studies skills.

Primary Performance Standards

By the end of 6th grade, students will have further developed their abilities in the following areas:

- **Cause/Effect Sequencing** - Students will be able to place events in order and be able to identify two or more events that have a cause and effect relationship.
- **Geography** - Students will study the 5 themes of geography and be able to read and analyze different types of maps and be able to demonstrate an understanding of the effect of geography on events and global issues.
- **Analysis and Synthesis of Data** - Students will be able to distinguish between fact and opinion and understand and use information from charts, timelines, maps, graphs, and political cartoons.
- **Research** - Students will be able to use primary and secondary sources to obtain historical and factual information with teacher support and use it in a research project.

Syllabus

The course will be divided into 5 units:

Unit 1 – The Abolition Movement and the Civil War (August 25 – October 28)

Unit 2 – The Gilded Age: Labor and Big Business (October 31– January 10)

Unit 3 - World War I and the Roaring 20s (January 10 – March 9)

Unit 4 - The Great Depression and World War II (March 12 – May 11)

Unit 5 – Post World War II Struggles (May 14 – June 22)

Main class text series: *The History of US* by Joy Hakim

- Book 8: An Age of Extremes
- Book 9: War, Peace, and All That Jazz
- Book 10: All the People

Grading:

The final grade each term will be based on the following:

- Homework – 20%
- Class work (including Do Nows, class participation in activities and discussions and binder organization) – 20%
- Major Assessments (Tests) – 30%
- Minor Assessments (including quizzes, projects, essays) – 30%

*A cumulative final exam will be given at the end of the year representing 5% of the student's year end grade.

Tutoring:

The Lower School has a targeted tutoring program, designed to provide additional skill support to struggling students. **As a result, tutoring is by invitation only.** More information about this change will be coming soon.

Assessment:

Homework - Homework will be given daily and must be fully completed and turned in during morning advisory.

Students are required to write down the homework completely in the school agenda BEFORE leaving class. If homework is not turned in, is late, OR does not meet the required expectations, that student will be required to attend homework club that day, and complete or redo the assignment for partial credit. Any assignment more than one day late must still be made up, but will receive less credit. If a student has questions about the homework, s/he needs to see me **BEFORE** you leave school; "I didn't understand," is not a valid excuse the day an assignment is due. If a student is absent, the assignment due on the day they were absent will be due the day they come back to school, and the assignment given the day they were absent will be due the day after they come back to school.

Classwork – Students need to complete and participate in all class assignments, activities and discussions. If a student misses class or part of class for any reason, s/he needs to see me and make up the missed work. Students will also have binder checks as part of their classwork grade. Any classwork that is not completed in class must be completed for homework.

Major Assessments: - Tests will be given at the middle and end of each unit and will always be announced in advance. For each mid and final unit test, students will be given a study guide, and be required to make a study plan and prepare study materials. *Students will be required to study these materials with a parent and have a parent sign off on them verifying this the night before major assessment. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation with this!*

Minor Assessments – (Quizzes, Projects, etc.)

**Quizzes* - Quizzes will be given regularly throughout the school year. They may be announced or unannounced.

**Projects* - Projects will accompany many of the main units. They may consist of multiple activities that will be checked along the way. There will be some time to work on them in class, but outside time will also be required. If you begin to fall behind on a project, you MUST SEE ME as soon as possible so we can arrange a plan to get you back on track.

Being Absent:

If a student is absent from school or misses class for ANY reason, **s/he is required to see me either during advisory or at lunch the day s/he returns to school.** Any work that was due the day that s/he was absent must be handed in at this time. Any work that was assigned the day s/he was out will be due the day after s/he returns to school. If a student is absent for an extended period of time, they see me to make up a plan for completing work over a number of days. If a student does not check in with me after being absent, it will be assumed that they have all the work and information they need and will hand in all their make up work the following day. Students will need to complete all the required assignments s/he missed (classwork and homework) and update their binders.

Being prepared for class:

Students need to be prepared for class every day. To be prepared for class means the following:

- having their History 3 ring binder & folder with an updated index and all required permanent and unit papers
- having their covered History textbook
- having their DEAR book
- having at least 2 pens/pencils (working and sharpened)
- having loose leaf paper in their binder (at least 5 sheets)
- having their agenda to write down homework
- being in one's seat with all of the above out and ready to work before the bell rings

Required History Supplies: (were included on the 6th grade supply list)

- 1 inch 3 ring binder
- 1 pocket folder (or a pocket in the 3 ring binder)
- A red pen
- A set of 12 color pencils (May keep at home for map and project work)
- Hand pencil sharpener