



Social Studies, Grade 8 (SOCS) 8B Syllabus

Course Name

SOCS 8B

Social Studies, Grade 8 – Semester B

Course Information

SOCS 8B is the second semester of this two-semester course.

In this course, students study the history of the United States from the Westward Expansion era through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to westward expansion, reform era, the Industrial Revolution, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of America and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. analyze the impact of political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to westward expansion, reform, the Industrial Revolution, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction.
2. describe the physical characteristics of the United States and analyze their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present.
3. analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of America and identify the origins of the free enterprise system.
4. examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents.
5. evaluate the impact of major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic.
6. evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States.
7. use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material to analyze primary and secondary sources.

SOCS 8 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) website.

Textbook and Materials

Textbook(s)

The required **digital** textbook for this course is:

- *United States History to 1877*, Texas Student Learning Center, 1-year subscription. (2016). McGraw-Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-659814-4

This digital textbook can only be purchased through the TTU K-12 partner bookstore, MBS (see the [TTU K-12 website](#) for a link to MBS), and [McGraw-Hill bookstore](#). Once you make your purchase, you will receive your credentials to the online textbook and resources via email, and it may take 1-2 business days.

The **print** textbook is optional:

- *United States History to 1877*. (2016). McGraw-Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-659810-6

Materials

No additional materials are required.

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from Adobe.com)
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)
- Digital camera or camera phone

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** on the course home page)

Course Organization

This course is organized into seven lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Assignments
- End of lesson tests

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 1	Westward Expansion	Three weeks

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 2	Industrialization	Two weeks
Lesson 3	Reform	Two weeks
Lesson 4	Sectionalism	Three weeks
Lesson 5	Civil War	Two weeks
Lesson 6	Reconstruction	Two week
Lesson 7	Course Review	Two weeks
Final Exam		

Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
1	1-3	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) 1.0a: Vocabulary Visual Reference Guide 1.1a: Helen Carpenter's Diary Entry 1.1b: Ranking the Roots 1.1c: American Progress 1.1d: Cause and Effects of Manifest Destiny 1.2a: Westward Expansion Map and Notes 1.2b: Territorial Expansion Matching 1.2c: Gadsden Purchase Quick Write 1.2d: Northwest Ordinance 1.3a: People Impacted Reading and Summaries 1.3b: People Impacted Matching 1.3c: Trail Map 1.3d: Westward Expansion Discussion 1.4a: Causes and Effects of the Mexican War 1.4b: Thoreau Quick Write 1.4c: Mexican War Quote Rewrites * Lesson One Assessment Lesson One Connection Project
2	4-5	2.0a: Vocabulary Visual Reference Guide 2.1a: Visual Events of Early 1800s 2.1b: Causes of the Industrial Revolution Questions 2.1c: Industrial Revolution Reading and Questions

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		2.2a: Inventions Chart 2.2b: Inventions Matching Activity 2.2c: Short and Long Term Impacts of Inventions Writing 2.3a: Effects of the Industrial Revolution 2.3b: Free Enterprise System Notes 2.3c: Regional Differences 2.3d: Industrialization, Migration, and Urbanization 2.3e: Industrial Revolution Map 2.3f: Industrial Revolution Categorizing * Lesson Two Assessment Lesson Two Connection Project
3	6-7	3.0a: Vocabulary Visual Reference Guide 3.1a: Need for Change Discussion 3.1b: Second Great Awakening Handout 3.1c: Reform Movements Questions 3.1d: Reform Movements 3.2a: Impact of Reform 3.2b: Ranking Reform Movements 3.2c: Era of Reform Categorizing Activity * Lesson Three Assessment Lesson Three Connection Project Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
4	8-10	4.0a: Vocabulary Visual Reference Guide 4.1a: Sectionalism Discussion Board 4.1b: Sectionalism Differences Questions 4.1c: Regional Differences Notes 4.1d: Regional Differences Categorizing 4.2a: The Significant Individuals Caricature 4.2b: Notes for Significant Individuals 4.2c: Significant Individuals Discussion Board 4.3a: Antebellum Compromises Notes 4.3b: Antebellum Matching Activity 4.3c: Southern Tension Meter * Lesson Four Assessment Lesson Four Connection Project
5	11-12	5.0a: Vocabulary Visual Reference Guide 5.1a: Civil War Graphic Organizer 5.1b: Civil War Reflection 5.1c: Categorizing Civil War

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		5.2a: Civil War Graphing Data 5.2b: Civil War Data Questions 5.2c: Civil War Map 5.2d: Civil War Battles and Timeline 5.2e: Civil War Impact Writing 5.3a: Significant People of the Civil War graphic organizer 5.3b: Speeches of the Civil War 5.3c: Comparing Voices * Lesson Five Assessment Lesson Five Connection Project
6	13-14	6.0a: Vocabulary Visual Reference Guide 6.1a: Civil Rights Amendments 6.1b: Amendment Match 6.1c: Reconstruction Plans 6.1d: Reconstruction Timeline 6.2a: Social Impact of Reconstruction Notes 6.2b: Quote Analysis 6.2c: Reconstruction Quick Write * Lesson Six Assessment Lesson Six Connection Project
7	15-16	7.1a: Industrialization Era Review 7.1b: Reform Era Review 7.1c: Westward Expansion Era Review 7.1d: Sectionalism and the Civil War Review 7.1e: Reconstruction Era Review 7.2: Primary Sources Analysis 7.2g: Primary Sources Discussion Board 7.3a: Era Match People and Events 7.3b: Timeline and Geography Connections 7.3c: Era Vocabulary Match Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		Final Exam

Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average (for Lessons 1-6), including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course.

Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- **Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)**
 - Lesson 1 Quiz
 - Lesson 2 Quiz
 - Lesson 3 Quiz
 - Lesson 4 Quiz
 - Lesson 5 Quiz
 - Lesson 6 Quiz
- **Summative Final Exam (30% of Course Grade)**

Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair

academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by email. For assignments that require you to upload a PDF or other document, please title your assignment files “lastName_firstName_assignmentName.xxx (.pdf, .doc, .xl, .jpg, etc.)”.

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Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.