**American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics**

Unit 1 – “E Pluribus Unum”: Foundations of American Government

**Overview**

Our first unit will focus both the historical foundations of America and a basic understanding of citizenship today. We will use readings, current events, unit packets, short video clips, and discussion to better understand the major concepts associated with the material. Each unit will include objectives, details about assessments, and our day-to-day plans. It is expected that you will complete the homework and be prepared for each class session. Additional copies of the unit plans and packets are on the class website (<http://learningandunlearning.weebly.com>).

**Objectives**

* Identify the role of government in citizens’ lives.
* Define the values and institutions that play a role in our country.
* Describe the rights, duties, and responsibilities of American citizens.
* Identify the ways in which we can participate in our community.
* Summarize the changing demographics of the United States.
* Explain the debate about undocumented immigration.
* Identify the steps of the naturalization process.
* Explain the origins of democracy in the United States.
* Describe the relation of the 13 Colonies to the British Empire.
* Identify the laws and actions that influenced the 13 colonies.
* Explain the purpose of written documents leading to change.
* Summarize the philosophical influences on independence.
* Describe the causes and consequences of the American Revolution.
* Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of government after revolution.

**Assessment**

Each unit will include two different tests. Each test will include matching, multiple-choice, and short answer questions. Please be mindful that the test dates are as follows:

* Tuesday, September 10 – Duties, Rights, and Responsibilities
* Thursday, September 26 – History and Colonization.

**Unit Plan, Part I**

Monday, August 26

Discussion: Course Overview & Introduction  
 *Civics & Government – Key Concepts*

**Homework: Complete “The Me You Might Not See” Writing Assignment. This assignment must include 3 paragraphs, including one that has to do with school/education/learning.**

Wednesday, August 28

Discussion: Duties and Responsibilities, Part I

**Homework: Read the article “The 7 Reasons Most Americans Don’t Vote” from the packet and complete the questions at the end of the article**

Friday, August 30

Discussion: Duties & Responsibilities, Part II

**Homework: Guided Reading Activity 5-1: The Duties and Responsibilities of Citizenship (page 5 of packet but says 83 in bottom right hand corner)**

Wednesday, September 4

Discussion: Diversity and Naturalization

**Homework: Crossword Puzzle and Political Cartoon pages from Packet**

Monday, September 9

Discussion: Diversity and Naturalization

**Homework: Study for test**

Wednesday, September 11

Discussion: September 11th Anniversary  
 Review for test

**Homework: Study for test**

Friday, September 13

**Test #1: Duties Rights and Responsibilities  
 Homework: To Be Announced**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Unit Plan, Part II**

Tuesday, September 17

Discussion: Jamestown & the English Colonies

**Homework: Finish 13 Colonies Map including:**

* + - **Correctly identifying each of the 13 colonies**
    - **Correctly identify the Atlantic Ocean**
    - **Coloring each region (New England, Middle, and Southern) each a different color; have a legend/key on the map as to identify the regional color**
    - **Identify at least two port cities**
    - **Answer the following question on the bottom: explain one way geography impacted the colonies.**

Thursday, September 19

Discussion: Colonies

**Homework: Complete Crossword Puzzle from packet**

Monday, September 23

Discussion: Birth of Democracy Part1: Road to Revolution

**Homework: Complete Guided Reading Activity 2-2 worksheet titled “The Birth of a Democratic   
Nation” (this is in your packet)**

Wednesday, September 25

Discussion: Birth of Democracy Part 2: Declaration of Independence

**Homework: Create Review Guide**

Friday, September 27

Discussion: After the War/Review

**Homework: Study for test**

Tuesday, October 1

**Test #2 History and Colonization**