United States History: 1870-Present
Class syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Rabakon
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Prep: 3rd Block
Room: 103

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ANYTHING IN THE SYLLABUS COULD BE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS. THIS DOCUMENT WILL GIVE US A STARTING POINT TO WORK FROM, BUT WE MAY MAKE CHANGES AS THINGS PROGRESS. PLEASE PLAN TO BE FLEXIBLE, JUST AS I WILL DO MY BEST TO BE FLEXIBLE WITH YOU!

Course description:

Students will learn and analyze the history of the United States to increase their understanding of our country's foreign policy decisions, its economic past, and its social changes by -

- Reading primary and secondary documents
- Viewing documentaries
- Creating visual and verbal presentations
- Determining and judging the impacts of other nations and geography

Through in-depth analysis of our country's past, students will gain more insight into its present and its future.

High school core class:

If you do not pass this class, you will need to retake it.

Goals/objectives (with focus questions):

1. Use information to form individual opinions on American policies of the past.
2. Effectively write persuasive essays that illustrate opinions with support and attention to the counter-argument.
3. Be able to identify important people, dates, and laws that have impacted the history of our nation.
    a. How have individuals impacted history?
    b. How has the geography of America affected our society during various eras?
    c. How did economic forces lead to migration patterns as America developed?
    d. How was the Great Depression a representation of the economy and the mindset of the people?
    e. What are some successes and failures of the Reagan Revolution?
4. Cite policies and incidents that have impacted the nation and influenced current decision making within our government and economy.
    a. How has the U.S. been impacted as a result of foreign events?
    b. How have economic policies impacted the social structure of America?
    c. How has the government expanded in an attempt to meet the needs of its citizens? Is this necessary?
5. Evaluate America's role in the past and its current role within the world.
    a. What events enabled the U.S. to become a world power?
    b. Does the U.S. have a right or an obligation to preserve democracy throughout the world?
    c. How have democracy and communism collided?
    d. Has American policy adapted to international terrorism? If so, how? If not, why not?

Resources:

American Odyssey - The U.S. in the 20th Century - Glencoe-McGraw-Hill
The Century - Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster
C3teachers.org
CNN Student News
America - The Story of Us - The History Channel
Michigan Open Book Project - *United States History* (online textbook)
**These are some of the main resources we will use, but there are SO MANY great resources out there! We will dive into many more in our studies!

Behavioral expectations:

Our goal at OHS is to strive for academic and personal excellence in everything we do by committing to the values of Eagle Nation PRIDE. I firmly believe in this, and in an effort to help students learn, it is extremely IMPORTANT to have some expectations for behavior. I feel (and I hope you do, too) that the following principles that OHS has outlined should be the FOUNDATION of our class and our school. These are:

- **P – Positive Environment –** ask for and give help, honor personal boundaries, tolerate differences, use respectful language and body language, follow safety expectations
- **R – Respect –** allow others to do their work, use kind, polite, and appropriate language with peers and adults verbally and electronically, use appropriate volume, ask permission before using other people's property, be considerate of other people's property
- **I – Integrity –** clean up your area, throw trash away, admit to, own, and repair your mistakes, if you see something, say something, follow the Olivet Honor Code and Academic Integrity Expectations
- **D – Determination –** give your best efforts, do your best work, utilize resources, set challenging goals, complete all tasks
- **E – Engagement –** be alert and focused, participate positively in class activities and discussions, come to class prepared to learn with materials and work completed, ask meaningful questions to learn about others' talents, cultures, and interests

Procedural expectations:

- Please - IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK FOR IT!
- **Computer Usage:**
  - When you come into the classroom, keep your computer closed until directed.
  - When it's time to close your computers, I expect you to close them completely and pay attention.
  - You should only be working on the tasks for the class you are in currently, <u>unless given permission by the teacher</u>.
  - If you complete an assignment early, you should not be playing games.
- **EMAIL:**
  - My email will be checked daily during the school week. I will respond in an appropriate amount of time.
  - Expectations for email etiquette from students:
    - There should be a summary of the content in the subject line of an email.
    - There should be a greeting and a closing.
    - Do NOT use all capital letters. Use proper punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and language.
    - Example:

      Dear Mrs. Rabakon,

I am having some trouble with Monday's assignment. Would you be able to have a Google Meet with me on Friday?
Thank you,
Joe Schmoe

- **MATERIALS:**
  - You will need a binder (JUST for this class) to keep your work organized.
    - 7 dividers are optional but would be helpful.
- **ASSIGNMENTS:**
  - Google Classroom -
    - I will post all work on Classroom, but the majority of assignments will be on paper and turned in directly to Mrs. Rabakon.
  - I will do my best to return corrected work ASAP.
  - Students are expected to partake in all assignments, which includes note-taking.
    - For example, many of the videos and readings will have fill-in-the-blank notes or short answer questions to go with them, which you will be expected to fill in and turn in when you've completed them.
  - **Missing/Late work:**
    - No late work will be accepted after the unit is completed, with the exception of missing tests.
  - The academic integrity policy of the school will be followed.
- **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**
  - **BACKPACKS:** Backpacks are allowed in the classroom, but they must be placed in the designated area on the counter on the side of the classroom. They are not to be at your feet, under your desk, in the aisle, etc.
  - **CELL PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES:**
    - It is our goal at OHS to teach students responsible use of technology. Personal electronic devices (PED) have great educational potential; however, they can also become a nuisance. Our policy is designed for students to appropriately and responsibly use personal electronic devices. Failure to be responsible will result in the loss of privileges. Although there are more specific policies student using devices in school must shall follow the general expectations listed below:
    - Having your device during your "free" time is a privilege, not a right.
    - Using your device to photograph or post problems on social media, record other students or faculty, or cause drama between individuals is an abuse of the cell phone privilege or policy.
    - Using your device to incite a fight will be disciplined as a third party to a fight.
    - All cell phones, earphones and other electronic devices are not to be displayed, turned on, heard, or utilized in the classroom unless given permission by your teacher.
    - Students are expected to use their devices during their free time responsibly.
    - Using social media to make fun of, intimidate, harass other students and staff is not a responsible use of technology and may result in loss of privileges.
    - Students who are using their devices during their free time should not be communicating with students in a class.
    - Cell phone policies will be determined by each teacher. Students must follow specific teacher guidelines in individual classrooms regarding cell phones and/or other electronic devices. In the CLASSROOM when used for academic purposes the students WILL NOT:
      i. Answer incoming texts, Snap chats, messages or phone calls
      ii. Be on any type of Social Media
      iii. Access or play any game or entertainment sites on the cell phone

iv. Access or use any application/app on their device unless expressly instructed by the teacher
v. Take any picture or video unless instructed by the teacher
vi. Upload any picture or video taken in any class to any social media or website
vii. Text or email any picture or video taken in any class to any person, including themselves.
viii. Access any type of mobile web browsing for any reason-unless directed by teacher
ix. Take any picture, video or text any class assignments without specific permission from the teacher

- **HEADPHONES/EARBUDS:**
  1. To maintain safety, and to allow students to hear staff and audio announcements students are to only use headphones or earbuds in one ear when allowed to use the devices. Exceptions may be made by staff for situations requiring reduction/cancelation of background noise.
  2. Headphones/earbuds are allowed before and after school, passing time, and lunch.
  3. Headphones/earbuds may be used during class as determined by the teacher.
  4. Headphones are not to be used during instruction time or unless directed by the teacher.
- Hoodies up and hats are NOT to be worn in the classroom.
- All trash from food needs to be disposed of in the hallway trash cans (food should not be eaten in class).
- **BEGINNING OF CLASS:** Students will come in each day, find their seat, and be ready to work when the bell rings.
- **DURING CLASS:** Students should stay awake. They will receive a warning for sleeping the first time, and then, they will be referred to the office.
- **END OF CLASS:** Students are dismissed when the teacher dismisses you. Lining up by the door is allowed only when the teacher gives you permission to do so.
- **RESTROOM POLICY:** Students will be able to use the restroom at an appropriate time during class if necessary, but we will take a whole group break sometime during each class period, so please use the restroom during that time if possible. (Skinnies don't have whole group breaks.)
  - Ask permission.
  - Use the lanyard hanging by the door as your pass.
  - Sign in and out.
- **BORROWING BOOKS:** In order to borrow books from my classroom library, please sign your name and book title on the clipboard sheet. When you are finished, I need to initial to signify you have returned the book.

Grading categories and weights:

Tests/Quizzes/Projects/Presentations - 75%
Homework/Classwork/Participation - 25%