

20th Century Conflicts Syllabus

Teacher: Mr. Kershner

Room: D110

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Course Description: The goal of this class is for students to comprehend and understand the different aspects of wars in the past century and their impact on today. This class will examine a variety of wars, each with different types, causes and effects.

Course Objective: My goal with this class is for students to be able understand cause and effect relationships, critique and value historical evidence, and extract information from credible sources. This class emphasizes past conflicts in an effort to understand current and future conflicts around the world. More conflicts are very likely to take place. It might be worth investing in understanding past conflicts.

Daily Class Necessities: writing utensil, folder, notebook, and your Chromebook. **Do not continuously show up needing to borrow paper, a writing utensil, or a charger for your chromebook.**

Classroom policies:

Late Work- I have a no late work policy. It is your responsibility to turn in your assignments on time. Failure to do so will result in a 0% for that grade. **I will accept homework until the end of the day.** If you miss an assignment in class you can still turn it in before I leave for the day. Assignments are accepted until the quiz for that unit has been taken.

Attendance - I expect you to be in class regularly. If you miss a day it is your responsibility to gather and complete missed work. Check Google Classroom, Planbook.com, and the classroom absent box for makeup work. I expect students to be in class and seated quietly when the bell rings. **I will be recording and reporting late arrivals.**

Participation- I require students to willingly participate in class discussions and activities. This will be a factor in your overall grade. We will try to incorporate the social in social studies. Much of the teaching in this class can be between each other. Please speak up and let me know if you are confused, disagree, or are simply not convinced by what is being presented.

Cheating/Plagiarism- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will be given an automatic 0% for the grade regardless of how valuable the grade might be (tests, quizzes, projects, homework).

Technology-

-Cell phones- Cell phones are to be stowed away in my classroom phone caddy. 1st offense- asked to put away 2nd offense- phone will be placed on my desk or student will be sent to the main office.

-Chromebooks- These are for academic purposes only. Use them for their intended purpose. No games, Facebook, Twitter, etc. I suggest reading a current news story. There are a lot of crazy things going on in the world. Check them out.

-Earbuds- Do not use earbuds in my class unless I instruct them for a specific activity(this is very rare). It comes across as insulting and disrespectful to be using earbuds in class.

-Classroom Behavior- We are a community of learners. For this community to be successful and to prevent problems I will be enforcing the following behavioral requirements:

Be Respectful- Of peers, teachers and yourself.

Take Responsibility- Ultimately take responsibility for your own actions and what is asked of you.

Honesty- This is a trait that has become absent amongst young people. Be an honest person and expect others to be honest with you.

Readings: This class will incorporate the use of two novels for this semester. We will be reading Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. This will be early in the semester while we focus on the idea of imperialism and colonialism. We will also be using Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* throughout the semester to help us better understand the correct philosophy of war.

Assessments- Assessments for this class will come in the form of online quizzes. Expect a quiz about every two weeks. Some quizzes will split a unit and half where others might cover an entire(shorter) unit.

Unit Layout (Not-Chronological) This class **will in chronological order**. This is a change from recent years but the wars were chosen to focus on different types of wars and why they matter. **American history is not the main focus in this class.** Many of the wars we will discuss do not involve the United States.

Unit Breakdown

Unit 1 Heart of Darkness & Colonialism

Unit 2 World War I

Unit 3 Spanish Civil War

Unit 4 French-Indochina War

Unit 5 The Vietnam War

Please Return By Monday, January 12th.

Parental Permission- The focus of this class will be conflict and war. Some lessons will focus on a mature content such as torture, war crimes, genocide, and violence. Students will view a variety of video clips that some might find intense. I am asking that parents sign this section of the syllabus to give their student permission to view this material. I want all parents to be in the loop on what is covered in this class. If you would like more information about what will be shown I can provide that.

Please email me with any questions you have. Kershner@meridianhawks.net

Student's Name_____

Parental Signature_____

