

Syllabus

US History with Mr. Myers

Welcome to US History!

This year we look at the first half of US History. We are presenting US history in a thematic way. So we will dive into a new theme each quarter. The themes are: The Movement of People, The Constitution and Government, Social Justice and Injustice and Ramification of our Major Wars. Inside each theme we will expose you to some of the major events in early US history and then you will be given an opportunity to dive deeply into some of the specifics. (You will get the next half in high school)

Remember that we are learning about our history this year. You and your family's history. This is our story. This is where we came from and how we got here! All of our families immigrated here at some point during our history.... We are adding to American History everyday!

Expectations: I have high expectations for my students. This includes everything from behavior to quality of work and thoughts that go into this class. I also expect you to participate and be a part of the class and our discussions. Be ready!

Grading: In my class I expect you to actually LEARN the information. I don't want my class to be one in which you are simply rewarded for going through the motions and completing assignments. Remember the goal of the assignment is that you learn from it. This is why the History dept. uses standards based grading. Accumulation of points is never the goal. Demonstrating that you understand the concepts is how you will succeed. All grades are either for practice (a very small percentage) or assessments (much larger percentage).

Struggling students: You should know, it is very difficult to fail my class. With standards based grading if you can demonstrate that you understand some of the concepts we learn you will pass this class! However if you find yourself struggling in my class, there are many ways you can work to improve your grade. You can get additional help from me before school, at break or at SOAR, go to homework club after school and more...

Improve Your Grade! How to Retake/Revise.. While I don't offer extra credit, I do believe that students should have the opportunity to improve your learning and thus better your grade. If the goal of school is to learn, then the way to improve your grade is to learn what was expected of you. If you do poorly on any of the standards I expected you to learn, you may improve your score in the following way:

1. Come see me on your time. (break or before or after school)
2. Have a discussion with me about why you did poorly. (silly mistake or did not know the info etc...)
3. I will assign you a task to complete that helps you learn the information better.
4. Once you complete the task, you can retest on the standards or learning goals you missed.

Make sure you are organized! Often in my class, we will wait to hand in our chapter work and history notebooks until the end of the chapter or unit. If you are not an organized person, it is easy to lose your work and thus not get credit for it. Be organized!

Class Rules: All the normal school rules apply in my class. If you can remember 4 rules, you and I will get along great this year. 1- Be safe. 2- Be responsible. 3- Be respectful. 4- Act like the young adult you are.

Additional Rules: One rule that may be different in each classroom is the tardy policy. In my class you are considered tardy if you are not in your seat when the bell rings.

Consequences for all class and school rules: I start with warnings and/or BEST forms. Then we progress to break detentions, lunch detentions, school detentions, and so on. Remember that failure to serve any of these means possible placement on the school wide Loss of Privilege List.

Class Government: We do class government in my class. We have a class president that is elected by each class. The class president helps run the class and has several responsibilities. You must have a B or higher to run for president!

Required Materials:

- Please come prepared every day to class. That is a key job you have as a student. Failure to do so means you will be seeing me at break.
- Please bring: charged Chromebook, paper, pencils, planner, homework and binder and history notebook to class everyday
- Also it is recommended that you have a calculator, a grading pen (some other color than black or blue), and colored pencils. (recommended but not required) Plug in Earbuds optional as well.

Hint:

Before we start a new chapter/unit you will get a set of learning goals. Ultimately this is what you will be tested on and expected to show that you understand. Use these as your study guide.

Now with all of that required reading of regulations and expectations out of the way, let me say that I'm looking forward to a great year of History. We will learn all about the founding of our country. If you are sitting in this class right now, you are part of American History! We are learning about our story. Let's get started.

Contact Me:

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