

UNITED STATES HISTORY –MR.KRAMER

CLASSROOM: Q118(1st)/Q110(5th)

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HOURS: 2nd, 4th, 6th by appointment only.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND GUIDELINES

The essential question asked in this course is who we are as individuals and as Americans. We are a part of a country that greatly influences the world; that bears with it a responsibility to know and understand our past and how that past continues to shape our present, and our future. We have come to this country at different times and under different circumstances. Our individual and familial histories necessarily influence how we see our collective history. But we are all a part of this grand experiment. Over the course of this year, we will listen to voices of the past. We will examine their thoughts on what it means to be an American and think about how that definition has grown and changed over time, and how it has remained constant.

OVERARCHING THEMES/TARGETS

Throughout the year, units of study will address many of the following themes:

1. What does it mean to be an American?
2. The Individual and the State
3. The Role and evolution of the rule of law
4. Popular sovereignty and states' rights
5. Reform/resistance
6. Sectionalism and sectional conflict
7. War and its impact on soldiers and the civilian population
8. Isolation, intervention, and engagement in world affairs
9. Executive power in a time of crisis
10. The challenges of diversity and conformity (assimilation)
11. Race and American Society
12. Gender and American Society

MATERIALS:

- Text: *The Americans* (Online)
- I will often post readings online. You may print these AT HOME if you wish, but you may also simply use the electronic versions. I advise that you download the readings at the beginning of a unit so as not to be at the mercy of a server when doing your homework.
- BINDER to keep handouts. Binder should also have a supply of **lined paper for class notes, homework, and other activities**. You should use dividers for the separate units. All handouts will be three-hole punched. You are expected to put these in your binder. I will NOT make any extra copies of handouts but will post them to the website. Periodically, I will ask you to pull various assignments/activities out of your binder to be evaluated. You are expected to have all materials with you every day.
- SPIRAL NOTEBOOK
- STAPLER
- PEN (NOT PENCIL)

STANDARDS:

All homework is to be completed in blue or black ink, or typed. This includes work in your notebook. All work to be turned in should be typed, proofread, and stapled PRIOR to entering class. Work not meeting these standards will be returned and considered late.

EVALUATION:

Grades

- Quarter grades are based on completion and quality of your process or homework (25%); the products/assessments that you turn in i.e. tests, quizzes, papers, and projects (65%); and class participation (10%)—Percentages are subject to change.
 - Note: Tests and quizzes will be returned as soon as all members of the class have completed them. Papers and projects will be returned at least one week prior to the due date of the next major assignment in order to facilitate the use of commentary and feedback.
- Class participation will be evaluated according to the standards on the posted rubric.
- For your semester grade, each quarter is worth 40% and the final is worth 20%.

Daily Preparation

- Homework will receive completion points each day. *Work that is visibly below standards will not receive full credit. Late homework will be accepted until the end of the unit for half credit.*
- For late major assignments—a meeting must be scheduled with me to discuss due dates and penalties. In general, a late paper will receive a 10% deduction for each week it is late up to a maximum 50% deduction.

Attendance

- If absent and excused, student should consult assignment sheet (on paper or online) and turn-in any assignments. This is your responsibility, not mine.
- Unauthorized absence results in a zero on any missed work or grade reduction.

Make-ups

- Notes quizzes missed because of an authorized absence are to be made up at home according to the directions posted.

EXPECTATIONS:

HONESTY: The Academic Honesty Policy is in full effect.

PREPARATION: Your learning is a direct result of how prepared you are. If you are having difficulty of any kind, please come see me.

COMMUNICATION: You are expected to check your school email daily. I keep an updated website for this class where you can find links to assignment sheets.

RESPECT: You are expected to respect your classmates and your teacher, as well as the people and ideas of the past.

COMMUNITY: The classroom is a sacred place. It must be a safe one for people to express their ideas—free of ridicule, scorn, snobbery, or competition.