

American History I  
Mr. Branan  
Fall 2021  
Yearlong 2021/2022  
Spring 2022

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**Room Number:** G212

**Tutoring:** TBD

**Course Description:** American History I: The Founding Principles will begin with the European exploration of the new world through Reconstruction. Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States from European exploration and colonial settlement to the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. Students will learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to the development of colonial America and the outbreak of the American Revolution as well as the consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. American History I: The Founding Principles will guide students as they study the establishment of political parties, America's westward expansion, the growth of sectional conflict, how that sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class and be on time. Students not in class when the bell rings will be sent to SMC. Tardy students will report to SMC and sign in with the SMC Coordinator. Students will receive a pass to class after signing in with SMC. Excessive lockouts will result in school detention or suspension. Union County policy states that more than **7** unexcused absences during the semester will result in a failing grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam for this course is teacher made and therefore is exemptible. The current exemption requirements are as follows.

- An A (90 and up) and 2 or fewer absences
- A B (80 to 89) and 1 or less absence

**Document-based Responses:** You will use your knowledge of U.S. history and political science to analyze an excerpt from a historical document. You will be asked to respond to one prompt. You must address each of the following in your response: identify the topic addressed in the document excerpt and explain the historical issues relevant to the creation of the document from which the excerpt was taken; explain the motivation of the author(s) for creating this document; explain an opposing point of view from the same time period about the topic addressed in the document.

**Vocabulary Quizzes:** There will be two to three quizzes given for each grading period. All quizzes will be announced at least a week before the quiz. All information or resources to acquire the information on the quizzes will be given out in class and available on Canvas. You are able to **write out** the definitions ahead of time and use them on the quiz.

**Project-Based Assignments:** This class will function in a mix of 2 types of instruction/learning. The first is a lecture style which will be used to open up each chapter of study to provide basic content that is needed to move forward. The second is called project based learning. This will be where students will

complete some kind of project to acquire the majority of the content. The projects will be a way for students to creatively express themselves and what they have learned in the given topic.

**Choice Assignments:** You will complete one choice assignment each grading period. These choice assignments serve as a “snapshot” of your understanding of the course material and will require you to complete one of the three available options. Choice assignments are based on the North Carolina Essential Standards and will be a great selection of review material when preparing for the final project and/or exam. All choice assignments will be submitted via Canvas and may require scanning and uploading documents.

**Research Paper (Honors Level Only):** Over the course of the American History I class, students will be required to complete a 1000-1200 word research paper on a topic of their choosing. There will be a step by step process throughout the semester/school year. More information will be provided once the school year has begun. The steps of the research process are listed below. Note that each step of the process must be completed before going to the next.

1. Topic Proposal
2. Source List
3. Evidence Grouping
4. Rough Draft
5. Final Draft

**Make-Up Work:** All work is due on time. Homework will be a 50% at best after one week. Late project will lose 10% a day. If you are absent the day an assignment is collected, you have **3 School Days** from your return date to school to turn in late assignments. After **3 School Days**, it is an F/0. If the student is absent the day an assignment was handed out, it is the student’s responsibility, **NOT THE TEACHER’S**, to obtain the homework assignment the day they return to school. Notes for the day’s lecture will be available on my Canvas page.

**Grades:** Your grade will be on the “points” system. Grade configuration will be total points earned out of total points possible each grading period.

- Project-based Assessments: **each worth 50 pts**
- Document-based Responses: **each worth 35 points**
- Vocabulary Quizzes: **each worth 25 pts**
- Choice Assignments: **each worth 20 points**
- Homework/Classwork: **each worth 10 pts**

**Suggested Materials:**

- 1 College Ruled Composition Notebook **OR** 1 College Ruled Spiral Notebook
- Highlighters
- Pencils
- Pens (Blue or Black Ink)

**Classroom Expectations:** All school rules apply.

**5 Essentials**

1. Be on Time.
2. Be Prepared to Learn.
3. Follow directions the first time.

4. I am the beginning and the end.
5. Electronic devices are to be used at teacher's discretion.

**Consequences:**

- Verbal warning.
- Minor Infraction.
- Discipline referral to the administration.

**Miscellaneous:**

1. At various times movies that are "R" rated may be shown to give a visual portrayal of a period in history. Scenes of a questionable nature will not be shown to students because it will either be irrelevant to the discussion or it is inappropriate in nature. By signing the contract and selecting yes, permission will be given to Mr. Branan to include your student in the viewing of the movie. If no box is selected but a contract is signed, this will be perceived by me as permission to include the student in the viewing.
2. Cell Phones: Cell Phones may not be used unless authorized by Mr. Branan. Per school policy, students will be expected to place their phone in their designated pouch. They may remove the phone at my discretion. I will be checking each day to ensure students are putting their phones in the pouch.
3. Cheating: Cheating on any assignment will not be tolerated and per school policy will result in a 0/F and a disciplinary referral to administration.