

## **Honors American Studies I**

**Mr. Jolicoeur**

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**Blog: [jolicoeur2019.blogspot.com](http://jolicoeur2019.blogspot.com)**

### **Honors American Studies I - Course Information Sheet**

Honors American Studies I is an advanced semester long course designed for sophomore social studies students at Salem High School. In this course students will have the opportunity to learn about the political, economic, geographic, and social development of the United States and New Hampshire. Emphasis will be placed on the connections between the strands of government, culture, economics, geography and history. The history portion of the course focuses on colonization to the mid nineteenth century. By exploring these areas, the goal is to gain an understanding of our role in a democratic society, free market economy and the historical relationships that shaped our institutions. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to understand and apply social studies concepts of history, geography, and government.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to use strategies for decision-making and problem solving. Students will also have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to use various research techniques to acquire and process information. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate that they have the ability to read and comprehend as well as write for a variety of purposes. This course will give students the basis for the follow up course, Honors Comprehensive American Studies II, which covers United States history from 1850 to the present, that is a graduation requirement that most students take their junior year.

The grading system that Salem High School has used for the past several years is an online program called Infinite Campus. As sophomores, most of you have had experience with this program already, and hopefully have been able to see how grades are imputed and calculated. Assignments are either designated as formative (25%) or summative (75%) and fall under one or more of the following categories:

- Listening, Viewing, and Speaking about American History
- Reading about American History
- Writing about American History

Because student learning happens throughout an entire course, grades for all courses will now be in-progress until the end of the course. Grades are no longer closed at the end of each quarter for semester or year-long courses for 40% or 20% of the final grade. Instead, they will be continuous and open until the final exam. The course work completed in a quarter-long, semester-long, or year-long class will account for 80% of a student's final grade, with the remaining 20% being the final exam. Parents and students are able to view in-progress grades daily in Infinite Campus. Parents will receive regular

notifications from Salem High School reminding them to review their child's progress. The expectation is that grades will be updated by teachers in Infinite Campus weekly.

Students will also receive a course syllabus that outlines the expectations for this course, and specifically lists all of the Units, textbook chapters, and projects that have been included. Also, in an attempt to go completely digital, everything for this course is linked on the blog: **jolicoeur2019.blogspot.com**. Students will need to access the blog regularly to complete assignments, read and respond to articles, and find out what was missed if a student misses class. The blog is a great way to communicate between the teacher, students, and parents, so please look at it regularly.

All school policies apply to this class. Students are expected to be prepared for class, participate when appropriate and be respectful and mature. Students will apply self-management skills and demonstrate that they are able to work with others. It is important to be on time and ready to begin class when the bell rings. Attendance is particularly important, and is directly related to success.

I am available for any questions, extra help or make up work both before and after school. I would like to emphasize that parents can be aware of daily class work and homework assignments by consulting infinite campus and the blog. Please contact me directly if there are any questions or concerns about the course work or material. I can be reached by leaving a message on my voicemail at Salem High School (893-7069 ext. 5178) or my district email address (**mjolicoeur@sau57.org**)

After reviewing this information, please sign the accompanying sheet and return to Mr. Jolicoeur as soon as possible.