



“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**US History
Mr. Robinson
Fall 2021**

grobinson@puhsd.k12.ca.us

Our #1 Goal for this term is to build relationships, support each other and focus on our physical and mental well-being, rather than just subject matter.

Course Overview:

This course is designed to inform students about the history of the United States with a focus on the 20th and 21st centuries.

I place a special emphasis on teaching students to **Think and Read Like A Historian**. As students you will be expected to not only remember names and dates and their significance but also identify cause and effect relationships as well as biases and differing points of view.

In other words you will learn to think critically about history.

I hope you leave this class with the tools and ability to analyze historical and contemporary events so that you may make informed, educated decisions in your life.

A historically aware citizen is one that will make mature and reasonable decisions.

Student Expectations

Be Respectful- Please treat the room, teacher, and each other with respect. Every student is entitled to his or her own opinion and to express that opinion in a safe and mature way.

Be Responsible- Come to class on time and be prepared to learn with materials necessary to do so. Take notes, charge your Chromebook, turn in your work on time, and study for assessments.

Everyone Does Everything- Everyone is expected to participate in activities, complete assignments, read along during readings, and work together when asked to.

Cell Phone Policy- Phones are not to be seen, heard, or used while class is in session. Under no circumstances is video or audio recording to take place during class. Violation of this policy will result in lowering of participation grade and administrative discipline.

Electronics Policy- You are not to have headphones/earbuds in during instructional time whether your music is on or not. In addition, use of chromebooks is a privilege and may be revoked for irresponsible use during class.

Plagiarism/Copying/Cheating

Simply put - this is presenting the work of others as your own. It will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for all students involved. As seniors, you know this and there is zero tolerance for it.

Late work

Late work will only be accepted for one week after the due date. At that time, a score of '0' will be given.

Quizzes and Tests

If a student has not completed the required work before each quiz or test, they will not be allowed to take the quiz or test. One week will be allowed to make up all missing work and to take the missing quiz or test during Intervention.

Retakes

Students will be allowed to retake a quiz or test provided all work has been completed. Students will have one week to attend Intervention and retake or make up the quiz or test.

Tardiness- Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Failure to meet this expectation will result in detention, Saturday school, etc.

Absences- Every day is important. In the event of an absence, students must make up all missed work immediately.

Hoods- Please take off your hood when inside the classroom. You have nice hair.

Class Procedures:

- Homework is due at the time/date posted and no later. Late work will automatically be reduced to a 'C' grade. **No work will be accepted more than 1 week after the due date.**
- If you miss a quiz or test it must be made up during intervention.
- Work will be graded and returned promptly.
- Due dates and daily schedules will be posted on the website.

- Cell phones must be off and put away.
- You may use the bathroom *at opportune times*.
- You must sign out to use the bathroom or leave class for any reason.
- Participation - whether through the chat or by speaking aloud - is key to a productive learning environment.

Work Habits:

- Your work habits grade is weighted as 10% of your total grade and is designed to help you achieve college and career readiness. It consists of the following:
 - Completion of work on time
 - Cooperation with group members, classmates and instructor
 - Preparedness
 - Attentiveness
 - Attendance
 - Personal integrity
 - Demonstration of quality attitude, courtesy and respect
 - Self-initiative and an ability to stay on task
 - Quality of performance in discussions, activities, assignments and exams

Assignments:

- **Reading Like A Historian:** Many of the activities we will be doing will be designed to improve your critical thinking and writing skills.
- **Textbook readings, questions & answers:** Expect these weekly, with quizzes.
- **Tests and quizzes:** Expect a quiz on each unit and a midterm and final. Assessments account for 30% of your grade.
- **Extra Credit:** Only students having completed ALL assignments, quizzes and tests can qualify for extra credit. Extra credit assignments are linked on our class website.

Grading:

Grading will be based on your performance and participation in class, on assignments and tests/quizzes, attendance and participation. While content knowledge is important and will factor into your grade, much of your performance in this course will be based on your ability to demonstrate a mastery of the critical thinking skills necessary in reading and thinking about history.

Grades are weighted as a combination of participation, class work, homework, in-class assignments and tests. Your grade will break-down as follows:

Assessments - 45%

Classwork - 45%

Work Habits - 10%

Grades will be accurate:

- Grades will be calculated utilizing a mathematically sound, easy to understand

- method and
will correctly describe a student's level of academic performance. Accurate grading
- Grades based on an individual's achievement, not the group's.

Grades will be equitable:

- Grades will be based on valid evidence of a student's content knowledge and not based on evidence that is likely to be influenced by a teacher's implicit bias nor reflect a student's circumstances.
- Grades based on required content, not extra credit
- Alternative (non-grade) consequences for classroom behavior
- Grades based entirely on assessment of student learning, not activities intended for practice

Grades should motivate:

- Grading should motivate students to learn, support a growth mindset, and give students additional opportunities to demonstrate learning.
- Grading should be transparent so that all students and parents/guardians may understand their progress at any given time & understand the learning objectives and criteria for success, and receive feedback in order to improve their grade

Motivation may be supported by the use of:

- Retakes and redos
- Rubric grading scale (i.e. 4 or 5 point scale/weighted grading)
- Grades articulated by level of competency, not necessarily points accumulated
- Standards-based Aeries gradebooks
- Encouraging student agency (e.g., goal setting, self-monitoring, open to and providing feedback, self-advocacy, etc.)

Keys to Success

Be on time, be prepared & follow directions.

Complete your assignments on time, study for tests and participate in class.

This class is a requirement for graduating Placer High School and you must earn a passing grade so do not fall behind - 9 weeks goes very fast.

Please do not hesitate to ask me for help.

- I look forward to a semester of learning and fun.
- I am interested in your lives and in seeing you succeed in whatever you do, and I

believe that every one of you has the ability *to* succeed.

- I am honored to be a part of your lives and educational careers and I take this responsibility very seriously. I hope you will too.
- Please come to me with any questions or concerns about the class or otherwise.

***“Our values are not matters of whim and happenstance. History has given them to us.”
~Arthur Schlesinger Jr.***