

# American History Syllabus

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Welcome to this class! 😊 I am so excited that you are in this class!

The focus of the American History curriculum is designed to equip students to think critically and to gain factual knowledge about United States History. This course will explore primary and secondary sources that students will analyze and critique. Students will think conceptually about the issues facing the United States and how those issues have influenced our history. All students must keep up with reading and participate in class. This class will spend a good deal of time reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. American History is a required semester-long high school credit. I look forward to a wonderful semester with you! 😊

## **Classroom Expectations**

MECHS is a school that students choose to attend. It is expected that students behave in a manner suited to working in an environment with other students of various backgrounds, experiences, and beliefs to prepare for college and work settings.

- Please come to class with a positive attitude.
- Please be respectful to all.
- Please come to class prepared and ready to follow directions.

## **Attendance**

You must be present and participate to learn, so keep absences to a minimum. Class attendance is a critical piece of gaining the most out of your educational experience here at MECHS. If you are unable to make it to a class, you must contact me via email to see what you missed. I will work with you. COMMUNICATE with me please. 😊

Students are allowed to miss up to 8 days per semester. After 3 absences/tardies, parent contact will be made.

## **Tardies**

Please do not be late as it is a disruption to everyone in the learning environment. This also includes early dismissals. Excessive tardies will result in office referral.

## **Late Work:**

Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. If a circumstance prevents an assignment from being completed, please communicate with me in person or email. I am very easy to work with, but you must meet me halfway.

## **Leaving Class**

If you must step out of class, you require my pink hall pass. Only one student will be allowed to the restroom at a time.

## **Electronics Devices/Cell Phones/Smart Watches:**

No cell phones or electronic devices may be on or out in class unless explicitly approved by the teacher. We will store our cell phones in the cubby provided by and follow the MECHS guidelines as posted in class. PARENTS: Please understand that I will not allow students to answer their phone or check their texts during class time. If you need to contact them immediately please call the school at (828) 649-0319.

## **Grading Scale**

**A 90-100**

**B 80-89**

**C 70-79**

**D 60-69**

**F 59 & Under**

Grades will be weighed as follows:

Tests/Projects 40%

Quizzes - 10%

Assignments 50%

## **Academic Honesty**

Honesty is extremely important to me. If you do not know or understand something, I will work with you.

*Cheating* from the internet or from another person is the intentional representation of another person's words, thoughts or ideas as one's own. It is also the intentional sharing of your own work with another who is planning to do the same. Do not risk it. The zero and office referral are not worth it.

## **Communication**

Both students and parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns or questions with me. The best way to contact me is through email: [amandawallin@madisonk12.net](mailto:amandawallin@madisonk12.net). **Students, please pay careful attention to email etiquette.** I am your teacher and will expect you to address me in a professional manner. No text language. Punctuate. Capitalize. Use spell check. Edit your email. Make sure your questions and needs are clear. Ask others to look at it. This is good practice for life.

## **Keys to Success in American History:**

SHOW UP in class, complete work in CANVAS and in class ON TIME, try your best, regularly check your school email, and communicate. Also, log in to **Canvas daily for resources**, updates, and more. Keep up with your grades in **Infinite Campus**. Never say, "I can't" or "I won't" because I know you can and will accomplish anything you set your mind to. Always speak up if you have any question at all. I'm here to help. 😊

You are part of the MECHS family now and you will do great things!

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## Parent/ Student Agreement

I have read the syllabus and understand Mrs. Amanda's expectations. I have paid special attention to policies regarding class requirements, attendance, and communication. Initials here: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Notes:

1. Use of our laptops and internet access are at the school's discretion, which means that you must use it responsibly. If you are not using technology for specific education purposes, you may not be allowed to use the school's technology. Do not alter the settings and report any computer issues to your teacher.
2. Clean up your area before leaving each day. Each student will be given a clorox wipe to clean their desk daily.
3. Put up chairs at the end of the day for us please.

**Parents**, please read the course policies and sign below. Students receive a classwork grade of 100% for returning this policy sheet with your signature. .

**Students**, please read and sign below as well. You will be keeping this policy sheet in your notebook so you can always refresh your memory on my policies if necessary.

*I will support my student at home and at school with learning goals for American History. I realize the Early College is designed to prepare students for college and career at a faster pace than traditional high schools, and I will encourage my student to stay on top of the work and seek help when needed.*

**Parent Name (print)**\_\_\_\_\_ **email**\_\_\_\_\_

*I understand my responsibilities including working towards honing college-level reading, writing, and speaking skills. I will work hard, turn in my work on time, ask for help when needed, participate, and communicate.*

**Student Name (print)**\_\_\_\_\_ **email**\_\_\_\_\_

### Special Note:

No selection is chosen without careful thought to the critical thinking and learning that the piece of literature provides; however, some readings and viewings covered may be challenging with regard to topics and/or language. Due to the nature of the Early College program, students will be expected to demonstrate maturity in discussions and debates, as well as respect for the thoughts and ideas of others. My classroom provides a safe and open space for critical and civil exchange of ideas. The instructor, when at all possible, will forewarn students about potentially disturbing subjects. The goal is an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity. If you feel that any stories' subject matter or language may be objectionable, please let me know early in the semester so I can assist with special needs.



