

American History

In American history we will trace history from the Post-Reconstruction Era to the present. We will create a picture of how the present day U.S. came about in order to help you attain a better understanding of our country today. This course will give you an awareness of the people, the country, and the issues that surround you, while better enabling you to perform your citizen role in this country. History must be studied to ensure that past mistakes are not repeated.

Class Materials: Textbook, Notebook (only if you prefer to write your notes), Pen (**Blue or Black Ink Only**) or Pencil, Flash Drive (highly recommended) and a Positive Attitude – **Needed Everyday!**

Classroom Rules: Be on time, be prepared, be respectful of everyone and everything, be on task, and recycle all paper. Notebooks should **NEVER** be placed in your textbook.

Cell Phones: All cell phones are to be placed on top of my counter according to your row and seat number. This must be done by the second bell. All phones should be turned to **SILENT**. Any first offense violation will result in me keeping the phone until the end of the day. Second and any further offenses will be handled by the office. Remember backpacks and purses are not allowed in the classroom.

Laptops/Internet: Although you will have access to a laptop 24 hours a day, I realize that not all of you will have that same access to the internet. However, it will be your responsibility to make arrangements outside of class (staying after school, coming in early, public library, etc.) to complete homework and prepare for tests. Remember that the Commons is also available for you to use the internet as long as the building is open.

If you are in the Success Center because of your American history grade you will NOT be allowed to use your laptop unless it is specifically needed to complete assigned tasks. Note taking must be done in a notebook. You will regain the use of your laptop at midterm or quarter, whichever applies, if your American history grade is in passing status.

Beginning of Class: Class begins with the **2nd Bell**. If you are not in your seat promptly after the 2nd bell, you are late. If you have any make-up slips they will be signed during this time. We will do an opening activity at the beginning of each class. These activities may range from discussing an article from the newspaper and current events, reviewing previously discussed concepts, or previewing the day's lesson.

Participation: You will receive a daily participation grade for your time in this class. You will earn your points as long as you are **prepared** and **actively** engaged in the learning of U.S. history. This means working on opening activities, note taking, participating in discussions, working on history homework, following classroom rules, having required class materials, etc. You will earn two points each day for a total of approximately **80 points** per quarter. Participation points will be figured every two weeks. You'll be allowed one unexcused absence per grading period. After one unexcused absence you will receive an X in the grade book, meaning the points won't help you or hurt you.

I _____ have read and understand Mr. Docker's classroom policies and procedures.
Parent Signature _____ Date _____

I _____ have read, understood, and agree to abide by Mr. Docker's classroom policies and procedures.
Student Signature _____ Date _____

Leaving the Room: Trips to your locker and restroom will be strictly limited. I will only allow you to use the restroom if it is an emergency, so please use the restroom between classes. Trips to the guidance office or office will also only be allowed in the case of an emergency.

Make-up Work: If you miss class it is your responsibility to come and see me. If you miss class and come to school later in the day you are expected to stop in and get your make-up work. If you have missed several days you should come see me before school the day of your return. Tests and quizzes need to be made up **ASAP!** You must do this either before or after school, during study hall, or during DEAR. **Make-up work is your responsibility. I will NOT chase you down and tell you that you need to turn in assignments or make things up.** You will have the number of days absent plus one to get your work in as stated in the student handbook. It is hard to do well when you're not here.

Late Work: If you do not turn an assignment in when I collect homework, then the work is late. I will only accept late work the **next day** after the assignment is due. This will result in the loss of one letter grade. **Late work will NOT be accepted after the next day.**

Class Grade: Your grade in this class will be determined by scores on homework, tests, quizzes, papers, projects, and participation.

Cheating: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Turning in identical work to someone else on a nongroup project or assignment will be considered cheating. If caught cheating or plagiarizing you will receive a **zero** on that assignment.

Test Taking: When taking tests in my room all books, notebooks, computers, etc. must be shoved under your desk. Nothing is to be in the aisles. All tests must be completed before the period is over unless otherwise notified, and there should be absolutely no talking during test time. On test days you should bring a book to read or something else to work on in case you finish early. If you do not have something else to work on you should be completing the reading assignment. Time after tests is not to be used surfing the internet or playing games.

Web Site/Schedule: You will be given a copy of our daily activities for the entire semester. Each day I will have a day number written on the board that you will find on your activity sheet telling exactly what we will be doing for the day. If you lose your sheet you'll have to print off another one from my web site. Also on my web site you will find a copy of the syllabus and the chapter notes (you will not be able to print the notes). To get to my web site go to www.centrallyon.org, choose the classroom pages tab, choose HS Social Studies, then find my name.

It is your responsibility to keep track of when tests and quizzes are. If you know you are having a test or quiz, which you do because they're on your activity sheet, you are expected to be prepared for it.

Extra Help: If you are ever confused, have questions on homework, or need help preparing for tests, come and see me. I **cannot** read your mind, so if you need help, **ASK!** I will go out of my way to help those who seek help and work hard. I am always available before school and when not coaching I'm available after school as well. Remember that if you have questions on a homework assignment or test preparation the worst time to ask is during the period they are due.

Fire Drill: Exit quickly and quietly through the NW exit in the elementary wing.

Tornado Drill: Sit quietly in the hallway north of the SE wing.

Quote for the Year: "Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm."

-Winston Churchill