American History I Syllabus

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1. **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 origins of the United States from European exploration and colonial settlement through the sectional conflict which led to the Civil War. We will conclude by studying the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction.

1. **Students should bring the following supplies to class every day**

-Spiral notebook or college lined paper (100 sheets)

-Blue or Black Pen and a pencil

-2 inch, three-ring binder

1. **Rules and Expectations**
   1. Be on time.
   2. Bring all materials to class every day.
   3. Treat others with respect and courtesy.
   4. Give your best effort every day.
   5. No electronic devices unless otherwise given permission.
2. **Attendance and Make-up Work**

1) Students are allowed five days to turn in an assignment with an EXCUSED absence. It is the student’s obligation to approach the teacher immediately when they return. (CMS Policy) Exceptional circumstances can be reviewed by the teacher.

2) Students with UNEXCUSED absences should see the teacher per CMS policy.

3) Grading is final at the close of each grading period. Period.

1. **Extra Help**

Please feel free to talk to me if you need help or do not understand an assignment. **Remember**, **I am not a mind reader!** If you need help, you have to ask. Tutoring will be offered at the following times:

* Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 in Trailer 463
* Thursdays 2:30-3:30 in Trailer 463

Test retakes alternate assessments will be offered during the times listed above.

1. **Grading Policy**

The long awaited new grading scale is as follows:

90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 59 or Lower F

**Formal – 70%** There will be a minimum of four assessments every quarter. Any may include multiple choice questions, short answer, free response and document-based essay questions. Tests will count for 70% of the final grade. Projects can be treated as a test grade depending on their complexity.

**Informal – 30%** Other assignments including homework, classwork, quizzes and participation will account for 30% of a student’s final grade. Expect unannounced quizzes on required readings. Class participation is assessed through comments, helpfulness, behavior, preparation, on-task behavior. Quizzes can be given with advance notice or at random. Some quizzes may not be counted at the teacher’s discretion. Pre-quizzes will not be given because there is no such thing.

1. **Homework**

THERE IS ALWAYS HOMEWORK. It misses you. It cries when left alone. It’s very sad.

1. **Miscellaneous**

This syllabus is not etched in stone. It can change! However, I will do my best to try to stay on schedule as possible. I expect you to come to class with a positive attitude and a willingness to participate. If you do, we are going to have a great semester together!!!!!

**XI . North Carolina’s American History I Standard Curriculum Goals**

**Goal - 1** Apply the four interconnected dimensions of historical thinking to the American History Essential Standards in order to understand the creation and development of the United States over time.

**Goal 2 -** Analyze key political, economic & social turning points in American History using historical thinking.

**Goal 3-** Understand the factors that led to exploration, settlement, movement, and expansion and their impact on United States development over time.

**Goal 4-** Analyze how conflict and compromise have shaped politics, economics and culture in the United

States.

**Goal 5-** Understand how tensions between freedom, equality and power have shaped the political, economic and social development of the United States.

**Goal 6 -** Understand how and why the role of the United States in the world has changed over time.

**Goal 7-** Understand the impact of war on American politics, economics, society and culture.

**Goal 8-** Analyze the relationship between progress, crisis and the “American Dream” within the

United States.

**XII. Units and Pacing**

American History I is a one credit course with 6 units of study. We will cover 3 units during the 1st semester and 3 units during the 2nd semester. A mid-term exam will be taken at the end of the 1st semester. The mid-term counts 20% of the 1st semester grade. A final exam will be given at the end of the 2nd semester. The final exam counts as 25% of a student’s overall grade.

**Units**

1. Exploration and Colonization
2. Road to the Revolution
3. American Revolution
4. New Government and War of 1812
5. Age of Jackson, Reforms, Manifest Destiny
6. Civil War
7. (Optional if time) The Secret lives of Leprechauns

**XIII. Cell Phone Policy**:

Unless approved, don’t pull out a cell phone in class. This is especially true during tests or quizzes. While we encourage technology in the classroom at times, camera/texting is strictly forbidden. Please do not do something stupid. There was a reason George Washington didn’t have a cell phone. Thomas Jefferson never used a cell phone during class either. Just saying…

**XIV. College Preparation Project**:

It is my hope all my students will be able to pursue college or advanced employment opportunities after leaving Northwest. With this goal in mind, students will have the option to complete a **college application** during the winter break, with essay. Students may also complete a **scholarship application** during Spring Break. Both assignments will be graded as formal assessments.

**XV. Final Exam**:

At the completion of the course, students will take a state issued final exam in June of 2016. The exam will include both multiple choice and essay questions. You will not be asked to write a novel but if you paid attention in class, you could.

**XVI. Videos and DVD’s**:

Permission below will be required to take full advantage of videos, including “Movie Nights” and special showings. Your signature below signifies your consent to showing historical related content to your student. Some possible selections include, but are not limited to:

“The Century” with Peter Jennings. ABC News

“First Invasion- The War of 1812”. The History Channel

“The American Revolution” parts 1 and 6. A&E

“The Civil War”. Ken Burns, PBS.

Saving Private Ryan, Last of the Mohicans, The Patriot, and other excerpts.

**XVII. Academic Honesty:**

Any work you turn in must be your own. Any time you use another person’s words, answers or ideas, you must give proper credit to that person by citing their work. I assume that you are honest so please do not prove me wrong.

By signing, student and parent agree to abide by the expectations set forth above.

Parent/Guardian (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_