

AMERICAN HISTORY

2018-2019

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Description: The American History course is a **high school history class** in which we will explore the history of America from the Pre-Columbian era through the present day, from a primarily Christian viewpoint. Other viewpoints will be considered, discussed and contrasted as we consider historiography (that is, what makes history *history*). The first semester will cover America from before European exploration to the end of the 19th century, while the spring semester will examine American history from the turn of the 20th century to the present day. It is a quick moving survey of the major eras of American history, and it will provide the students with a broad overview of the historical themes of the Western hemisphere and our country. The class will be conducted in a combination lecture and seminar/group-discussion format, and it will be **limited to 15 (fifteen) students**. Our historical texts will consist of a history text, in addition to primary (first-person) source materials, audio-visual resources, and historical literature of several genres.

Texts: Since our primary text, *The Landmark History of the American People*, by Daniel Boorstin, is currently out of print, **I will supply the text book for each student**. The students will be expected to **return the text to me, in usable condition**, by the final day of classes in May 2019, **or a replacement cost** will be incurred. The **class supply fee will be used to supply other required texts and materials for the course**. The return of those texts, in useable condition, can result in a sizeable rebate of the class supply fee.

Course Requirements: Attendance, completion of readings and assignments, and class participation is vital to the successful completion of this course. History, as a subject, tends to be reading-intensive, and this class is no exception. However, the historical selections chosen are fairly easy to read and useful for our class discussions. In addition, we will focus on historical analysis of the works we read, in order to glean an understanding of history from well-written and researched historical fiction.

Grading: Class participation & completion of assignments (**50%** of the grade). A **midterm** exam (**20%** of the grade). A **final** exam (**30%** of the grade). The exams will be a combination of essay and short answer questions.

Expectations: I am looking forward to working with you this year, and it is my sincere prayer that you all come to enjoy the study of His-story as much as I. Please review the policies of this course, and let me know if you have any questions concerning them. I can be reached at my e-mail, or on Fridays during the lunch period, or by appointment.