American History from Pre-Contact to Present
Terrace Community Middle School
Department of Social Studies

Teacher: Johann Wahnon
8th grade America History
History Subject Area Leader
School Year 2019-2020

Course Requirements

The course grade is calculated from 4 components: class participation, homework, unit tests, and semester exams

1. Class participation: Attendance is the most important ingredient to the success of the class. Learning is also an interactive process. For this reason, your participation in class activities is crucial. Classroom participation may include questions and answers, notes, and other assignments.

2. Homework: Throughout the year, you shall be required to do various tasks at home. Homework will also include pop quizzes.

3. Unit Test: You will sit for tests, which requires you to understand major themes in American History.

Grade Breakdown by Quarter:
- 23% Class Participation
- 2% In Classwork
- 25% Homework
- 50% Major Assessments

4. Additionally, semester exams will comprise 25% of the overall semester grade.

Writing Format: Student writing must be in MLA format. Specifically it should be properly cited, titled, paginated, typed using Times New Roman style, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1” margins on all sides, with black ink on white paper. Do not include a separate title page. These standards are in conjunction with the social studies and language arts departments.

Late Assignments: Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted (except by school policy). An assignment is considered late after I have collected the assignment during class. You will not be allowed to leave class to retrieve assignments or supplies.

Please note that your ability to manage your work and time is as much a part of the assignment as the completion of the homework. Your assignments are posted on Monday and are typically due Friday. To avoid leaving your homework on your kitchen counter, it should be done early and then secured in your backpack. Additionally, your printer will most likely break during the course of the year. When it does break, you can handwrite the assignments for a point reduction or you may go to the media center in the morning/lunch/afternoon to print with your student ID. Although the media center is a possible option for printing, technology issues, testing, and other situations may preclude a student’s ability to print. Thus, a
student may not be able to print and such events will not excuse late homework. Ultimately, homework is the students’ responsibility alone, thus, no excuses will be accepted for late work.

**Electronic submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

**Any assignment turned in without a name will receive a point deduction.**

**Materials:** 3 Ring Binder & pencils or pens

**Communication:** Primary mode of communication will be progress reports, which will be updated and posted to the TCMS website anytime an assignment is graded and in compliance with TCMS policy. You will periodically be required to return a statement signed by parent/guardian acknowledging that grades have been updated. Failure to comply will result in a scholarship warning. Email and phone messages are checked and replied daily.

**Study Suggestions:** Should your grade drop below an acceptable level, I have two standard suggestions.

1. Specify a time block nightly when the entire household shuts down and focuses on academics. Everyone sits at a common table (if parents can not be at the table, it is best if they are at least within view). No TV, radio, music, phone calls, computers, etc. Family members (esp. siblings) may help each other.

2. Have a study partner, who is a successful student in my class. This is very common in the high-powered universities. The same magic occurs at all levels. The study partner must be someone with a solid GPA. They should be able to focus together, so it may be beneficial if the study partner is not involved in other areas of life nor have common interests.

Without exception, every one of my students who have sincerely applied these strategies makes A’s and B’s in my class. In time, they also develop the study habits and skills to where they no longer need these strategies imposed upon them; although, many continue to use them throughout their academic careers.

**Tutoring:** Tutoring is available Friday at 7:45 and upon request.

**GRADING CRITERIA FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

Essays grades shall be based on the 8th Grade FSA Rubric which can be found on my website. **In writing, simplicity is beauty.**

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

You are expected to observe proper classroom etiquette. This code of behavior must be followed so that class activities can be carried out effectively. In general, please refrain from behaving in such ways that would interfere or disrupt class activities or show disrespect for your fellow classmates.

Students are expected to be in their seats when the bell rings. If any student is standing, they will be given an afterschool detention.

All specific questions about classroom behavior should be referenced to in the student handbook. Violations of the student conduct code will invoke a measured response as dictated by the handbook.

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**
You are responsible for performing your own work. Plagiarism is taking the words or ideas of another person and presenting them without appropriate documentation. The student handbook outlines specific penalties (page 14) for plagiarism and cheating which is a level two offense. **If you plagiarize, you will receive an "F" for the assignment, a call home, and you will be reported to the administration office.**

**Plagiarism/Cheating/Lying is a Level One Violation** with the following consequences, as well as loss of privileges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Up to three days of after school detention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>One day out of school suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Two days out of school suspension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**First Nine Weeks**
- Chapter 1: Pre Contact/America
- Chapter 2: European Exploration and Settlement
- Chapter 3: The English Colonies in America
- Chapter 4: Life in the Colonies
- Chapter 5: Toward Independence
- Chapter 6: The Declaration of Independence
- Chapter 7: The American Revolution
- Chapter 8: Creating the Constitution
- Chapter 9: The Constitution: A More Perfect Union
- Chapter 10: The Bill of Rights
- Chapter 11: Political Developments in the Early Republic
- Chapter 12: Foreign Affairs in the Young Nation
- Chapter 13: The Worlds of North and South
- Chapter 14: Andrew Jackson and the Growth of American Democracy

**Second Nine Weeks**
- Chapter 15: Manifest Destiny and The Growing Nation
- Chapter 16: Life in the West

**Chapter 17**: Mexican Contributions of the Southwest
- Chapter 18: An Era of Reform
- Chapter 19: African Americans at Mid-Century
- Chapter 20: A Dividing Nation
- Chapter 21: The Civil War

**Third Nine Weeks**
- Chapter 22: The Reconstruction Era
- Chapter 23: Tensions in the West
- Chapter 24: The Rise of Industry
- Chapter 25: The Great Wave of Immigration
- Chapter 26: The Progressive Era
- Chapter 27: America Becomes a World Power
- Chapter 28: The Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression
- Chapter 29: World War II

**Fourth Nine Weeks**
- Chapter 30: The Cold War
- Chapter 31: The Civil Rights Movement
- Chapter 32: Contemporary American Society

**NOTE**: The instructor may change the terms herein at anytime, but only with justification.