**American History I Syllabus**

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Room 116

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**Tutoring: Monday-Thursday 4:00-5:30 pm (or by appt.)**

**Course Description and Goals:** YOU NEED TO PASS THIS CLASS TO GRADUATE.This American History I course is part of the required credits that a student needs in order to obtain a High School Diploma. Students should keep this in mind throughout the course. I am very excited to take this journey with you and to be able to provide you with the basic knowledge, as well as a deep understanding of the history of the United States. This course will begin with exploration and colonization of the early Americas, and will end with the topic of Reconstruction (after the Civil War). **This course will also serve as a precursor to American History II.** The overall goal of this course is to provide students with not only a deep understanding of major concepts and events, but also with major skills that can be used across other content areas (such as analysis, interpretation, evaluation, creativity, etc.).

**Class Structure:** Students will experience a classroom environment that caters to **all learning styles.** Students will be required to participate in lectures by taking notes, as well as answering questions. We will have a bell-ringer with review questions at the beginning of each period. Students will be expected to participate in activities inside the classroom. Students will also be required to complete at least one homework assignment each unit. Each unit will have a quiz, as well as a test. Students will be provided with study guides for the tests. The tests will be modeled after the state exam which will be given at the end of the semester. **Students will be provided with individual folders that I will keep. You will keep all of your daily work in this folder. You will pick that folder up at the beginning of each class and put it back at the end of every class.**

**Course Topics:**

1. **Exploration/Colonization**
2. **American Independence**
3. **Early Government (Federalism, the Constitution, etc.)**
4. **Westward Expansion (including treatment of Indians)**
5. **The Jacksonian Era**
6. **The Mexican-American War**
7. **Reforms (early women’s movements, abolitionist movements, etc.)**
8. **Sectionalism & Slavery**
9. **The Civil War**
10. **Reconstruction (1865-1877)**

**Required Materials:**

1. **Paper**
2. **Pencils & Pens**

\*I will be providing each student with a personal folder that they will keep all of their class activities, notes, vocabulary, etc. in. This is to prevent students from losing items (and me having to constantly replace them). You will grab your folder before you sit at your desk at the beginning of each class & will put it back as you leave class each day. If you want to take anything out of your folder, you must fill out the “sign out” form that I will provide.

**Grading Policy**

Projects-30% A: 90-100

Tests-25% B: 80-89

\*\*Quizzes-15% C: 70-79

Classwork & Homework (including bell-ringers)-20% D: 60-69

Participation-10%F-Below a 60

**Assessment Practices:**

**Unit Tests:** Students will have a test after every unit. The students will be provided with a study guide and a review for each test. Students may look over their notes, vocabulary words, as well as study-guides to study for the tests. Because there are so many names, facts, dates, etc. in history, students MUST study!

**Quizzes:** There will be one or more per unit. Students will NOT be allowed to use their notes for these quizzes. Students will be able to prepare for these quizzes by viewing the vocabulary that they work on in class and looking over their notes. \*\*Quizzes are only worth 15% because they are not meant to tank your grade, they are meant to test your knowledge and highlight areas of improvement before the test.

**Warm-ups:** Each day, students will complete a warm-up activity as soon as class begins. The warm-up will be review-based to get students ready for new material. Students will be given a set of weekly warm-up logs for the unit. Logs should be kept in student folders. Students are to complete the warm-ups on their log. Ten minutes will be given to complete the warm-up and at the end of the 10 minutes, I will come around and check them. If they are finished by the time I check, the students will get a check mark on that entry. If the student has only half of the warm-up completed, I will give them a ½ mark. If the student has not completed the bell-ringer by the time I go around to check, I will give the student an “x” or zero for that entry. I will collect the warm-up logs at the end of every unit.

**Test Corrections:** Students will be given the opportunity to make test corrections after school during tutoring hours. Students will be timed and will lose the opportunity if they do not treat correction time like they do test time. If students talk or cheat, correction privileges will be revoked.

**Daily Participation Grade:** Students will receive a participation grade every week. Participation in this class is highly important. There a lot of interactions between students, as well as between myself and the students. Students will get participation points knocked off for the following things: Talking too much, being disrespectful, leaving the classroom for extended periods of time, not completing work (homework, classwork, notes, bell-ringers, projects) , PHONE USE, trying to put in earbuds.

**Classroom Rules and Conduct:**

1. **Be Respectful! (to me, each other, and yourself!)**

Each student should feel welcome and safe in this classroom environment. We will be talking about some interesting topics, so I expect respect in regards to others’ opinions. I also expect you to be respectful in your conduct towards me. I will not allow you to remain in the classroom if you are disrespectful.

1. **Know when to speak! (Refrain from speaking during inappropriate times)**

\*inappropriate times include anytime that I am talking, another student “has the floor”, during any assignment (including tests & quizzes), etc. Students may talk when called on or during group work. PLEASE do NOT talk while I am talking. I want you to listen for YOUR benefit!

3**. Put away the technology! (cell phones/tablets, iPods, etc.)**

\*Students are not permitted to use their phones in class. I will ask you to put your phone away if you are caught using it in class. If you refuse to put it away, an administrator will be called or other consequences such as after school detention will be given.

4**. Respect Classroom Property! (no food or drinks)**

\*Students are NOT allowed to have food and drinks during class-this usually results in trash being left around. I do not mind if you have a water bottle under your desk. Any other form of liquid will be asked to be put away immediately. I also expect you to be respectful of classroom property. I would never take something of yours and throw it around!

**5. Take responsibility for your OWN learning! (i.e. come prepared and do your best!)**

\*Students who want to be successful in this class (as well as have fun), they must come prepared everyday with the

necessary materials. Do not stop everyone else in the middle of class because you need a pencil! I do not tolerate

complaining. I do not expect every student to be perfect-just that you do your best!

**Classroom Procedures**:

**Bathroom Procedures:** Students need to try to use the bathroom before class. Students will be counted tardy if they are not in class when the bell rings-even if they have put their stuff in the room and left for the bathroom. If a student needs to use the bathroom during class, they need to raise their hand and ask me, fill out their bathroom pass and give to me, sign out on the bathroom sheet, and take the hall pass.Students must also sign back in upon returning! **Students will be given 5 bathroom passes at the beginning of the quarter. Use these passes wisely! Once they are gone, you are out until the next quarter. Bathroom passes will be kept in student folders.** If a student has an emergency or is sick—the procedure will be appropriately altered.

**Tardy Procedure**: Students who are tardy must come in quietly, sign the tardy log, and sit down and try to catch up! If you are tardy more than three times, you will be required to make up time before or after school.

**Missing Work:** Students receive the entire unit on the first day of each unit. If students know they are going to be absent, it is their responsibility to complete their unit work early and turn it in to me. If a student is unexpectedly out, it is their responsibility to turn in their late work. You are responsible for returning it back to me at the appropriate due date. \***This is your responsibility to keep up with your missing work**-I will not come up to you anytime that you are missing and tell you what you missed. Sleeping in class or not completing work in class is not considered missing work and will be marked as a zero

**Homework:** I have a strict homework policy. Being that you do not receive a lot of homework, you will be expected to turn in the homework strictly on the due date-at the beginning of class. I will NOT accept late homework.

**Entering and Exiting the Room:** When you enter into the room, immediately go to your assigned seat and start working on the warm-up assignment. When you leave the room, you must wait until I allow you outside of the door-DO NOT walk outside of the door before the bell rings. Also, do not pack up until I am done talking! DO NOT LINE UP AT THE DOOR! THIS IS A MAJOR PET PEEVE!

**Extra Materials:** If you really need a pencil, just ask me or a neighbor. I will try my best to provide pencils-however, it is your responsibility to give them back to me. If students do not return pencils, the extra pencils provided for the class will run out and will not replaced until students donate more. To keep things simple, please just return the pencils!

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**Student/Parent or Legal Guardian Info and Signatures:**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Cell number (of parent/legal guardian): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*I have read and understand the design of this class according to the above syllabus\*\*\***

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Note to parents/guardians: Please feel free to contact me anytime at the information listed above. I will also make it a huge point to keep you updated on your child’s progress in class. I want to work in a partnership with you to help your student succeed!**