

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

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

johann.wahnnon@tcmstornadoes.com
987-6555 X3101
Text Book, *History Alive!: The United States*
Website: Edsby

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. Home work 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:

First: Up to three days of after school detention
Second: One day out of school suspension
Third: Two days of out of school suspension

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.