

Course Information- United States History
Mr. Cummings

COURSE OF STUDY

United States History is a one-year course covering the events between 1400 and 1890. We will study the cultural and political events that have forged this country. Along the way, we will use important methods like problem solving, writing, analyzing, debating, and creating important group and individual projects.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

Freedom is the most important right our nation's founders gave us – it is therefore critical to study the lessons learned during our struggles to acquire and maintain our freedom, since lessons that people learned 100 years ago could benefit us today. We will apply this logic in our discussion of the following topics:

- Basic Classroom Skills (1 week)
- Explorers and Discovery of America (1 week)
- The American Revolution and its Causes (4 weeks)
- Formation of Our Government (1 week)
- The Constitution (4 weeks)
- The War of 1812 (2 weeks)
- Women's Suffrage and The Rise of American Culture (1 week)
- Exploration of the West (4 weeks)
- The Mexican-American War and Indian Removal (1 week)
- The Civil War and Reconstruction (5 weeks)
- The Industrial Revolution (2 weeks)
- Presidents and the States of the Union (year-long)

EXPECTATIONS

We all have expectations, both for ourselves and for our fellow students. You also have expectations of me. I will do everything possible to help you, but will not do the work for you. In exchange, please:

- a) Come to class on time;
- b) Be prepared with materials, and assigned homework;
- c) Respect other students and their opinions, even if they are not the same as your own;
- d) Encourage your classmates to be successful- think of how you would want your opinions to be treated;
- e) Make responsibility a daily routine in this class;
- f) The use or display of electronic devices (cell phones, etc.) is strictly prohibited.

If you fail to follow my expectations...

- 1st- Visual Warning
- 2nd- Verbal Warning/1 Minute after class
- 3rd- Phone call to parent
- 4th- Referral to office

If you cooperate with the teacher...

- 1st- Verbal praise
- 2nd- Stickers/Progress Notes
- 3rd- Phone Call or Note Home
- 4th- Homework Pass, etc.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You must bring as many of the following items with you to class as possible:

- Paper in a three-ring binder
- Binder Reminder or Daily Planner
- Black or Blue Pen
- Colored Pencils (project days only)
- Pencils- must be sharpened BEFORE class

While some items will be available for use during class time, there may not be enough to go around. Therefore, it's best to bring your own set to use in class.

A Proper Heading is Important!

Why? Here's something to think about- A teacher will grade about 200-300 papers per week! If even 5% of those papers don't contain a proper heading, over 10 students will not receive credit. That can mean the difference between passing and failing. **WRITE THE PROPER HEADING ON EVERY PAPER YOU TURN IN.** The heading must include Name, Date, and Class Period.

HOMEWORK AND LATE WORK POLICY

All grades will be awarded on a point system. Points will be given for nearly every assignment that you complete and will include items like Homework, Classwork, Tests, Essays, Projects, and just about anything else. Late work is only accepted for the current quarter. After the end of the quarter (when Progress Reports are released), the scores become zeros and cannot be made up. Late work must be made up after school tutoring (to ensure quality, valuable work). Late work will be penalized 50% of its total value.

Remember: A mistake or lack of planning on your part DOES NOT constitute an emergency on mine.

GRADE POLICY

Grades will be posted every Monday. You will be able to see how many assignments you have turned in, as well as your overage percentage. Use the following chart when figuring out your grade:

* A= 90-100% * B= 80-89% * C= 70-79% * D= 60-69% * F= 0-59%

CHEATING & COPYING

Bridgeway Island does not condone cheating. The following are representative examples of cheating and copying, but are certainly not all forms of cheating or copying.

- Turning in someone else's work, in whole or in part, as your own (with or without his/her knowledge). This includes turning in a completely duplicated assignment.
- Allowing another student to copy and turn in your work as his/her own.
- Several people writing one assignment and turning in multiple copies, all represented (implicitly or explicitly) as individual work.
- Stealing an examination or solution from the instructor.
- Using cell phones or other electronic devices to obtain or send information during a test.
- Using restricted materials (notes, books, study guides) on tests.
- Forging parent signatures on documents.

CONSEQUENCES FOR CHEATING OR COPYING

First Offense

- Receipt of a zero on assignment, with no opportunity to make up.
- On examinations, retake at instructor's discretion.
- If copying of assignments is witnessed, assignments will be confiscated and returned to teacher.
- Phone call to parents.
- If on a sports team, one game suspension.

Second Offense and every offense after

- All of the above
- Removal from AVID and/or Leadership class if enrolled
- Automatic Referral

Binder Check

The Binder Check is a very important assignment, which you must keep in your backpack until collected. You will be given more information on this weekly assignment as time passes.

FOR PARENTS: This Document Also Serves as a Video Permission Slip

As part of our studies, I will show videos that allow me to improve your child's learning experience by providing many details that our textbooks lack. By signing this syllabus, you agree to allow your child to view these documentaries and partake in discussions during and following each presentation. If you prefer that your child not view these films, sign this document and check the box below the signature line. I will provide an alternate lesson for the days that these videos are shown.

Any Questions?

PLEASE ASK! Don't ever feel that a question is unworthy of asking. However, keep those questions that might offend or anger someone to you. I wish you the best of luck in all of your classes!

Make sure you and parents sign below. Return this paper NO LATER than the end of this week.

I have read this paper and fully understand its contents.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature