

AMERICAN HISTORY SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Darren Morgan

ROOM: 806

GRADE: 8

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"American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful, and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it."

~James A. Baldwin

Welcome! I am excited that you are embarking on a 180-day journey with me this year called American History. HIS-tory is boring...agreed, but YOUR-story is intriguing. Where each of us stands today, regardless of our heritage, intersects with the subject of history. We are victims and agents of history. We reap the consequences of those who have come before us (good or bad), and we are creating an episode in the timeline of history that will affect generations that follow us. This is a fact that should both warn and inspire us to make a lasting and positive mark on this earth. In this class, my hope is to partner with you as students of history to uncover the lessons derived from our collective past. Sometimes, we will be encouraged, and other times we will be appalled by the events we observe. Nevertheless, the past has something to tell us. I hope that you will learn to love this subject for its value to you as an individual in a society that needs, more than ever, well-informed citizens.

~Mr. Morgan

COURSE WORK

- ✓ **Curriculum-** The class content will span American History (Pre-Columbian-Modern Day).
- ✓ **Materials-** We have the luxury of the iPad, which opens up a world of resources. Most resources used in class will be in digital form (handouts, primary and secondary sources, websites, audio/visual pieces, maps, tables, charts, etc.), however the class also has a physical textbook that will be used in class (checked-out as needed) as a resource.
- ✓ **Morganization-** I will use a variety of pieces to keep students on track, but the essential include the class website, my mobile application created for the class, and Schoology (a learning management system for turning in assignments and engaging in digital discussion).
- ✓ **Note Taking-** Each student will be required to keep a class notebook (electronic or digital). The notebook will include unit vocabulary, unit highlights, and any other material deemed necessary by the instructor. Notebooks will be graded at the end of each unit.
- ✓ **Door Dingers (a.k.a. Bell Ringers)-** At the beginning of each period, students will engage in an opening activity to get class started. These will be graded items.
- ✓ **Assignments-** There will be assignments given each unit that will require the student to engage the material on a deeper level. These will usually be project-based, and will require students to build upon various literacy skills (especially reading and writing/typing skills).
- ✓ **Assessments-** At the close of each unit, an assessment will be given. This test will gauge how well each student can apply historical content to an essential social studies skill.

GRADES

- A- 100-90%
- B- 80-89%
- C- 70-79%
- D- 60-69%
- F- 50-59%

**For work that is turned in, 0-49% does not exist in this system of grading. Each grade is based upon a 10% range. However, missing work will receive 0%.*

- ✓ Late work will be accepted with penalty. A student submitting a late assignment will not be given above an 89% on that assignment.
- ✓ Tardies may result in the loss of points for “door dingers,” as class may have already begun by the time the student shows up (these may be made-up if arranged with Mr. Morgan).
- ✓ Absences may result in the loss of key material that may affect a student’s grade. However, the course content will always be accessible on the class website. Students who are absent will be responsible for making up any work done in class that day(s). A window of time equal to the absence will be given to complete the work without penalty.
- ✓ Cheating will result in an automatic “F” on the given piece of course work, as well as other disciplinary action.
- ✓ All course work may be redone for credit up to an 89%, except in the case of cheating.

IPAD PROTOCOL


- ✓ When using the iPad, students will only use the apps as instructed.
- ✓ Students will keep hands on their own iPad.
- ✓ Students will come to school with a charged iPad everyday.
- ✓ Students will keep all food and drink away from the iPad at home and school.
- ✓ Students will bring earbuds every day, and use them only when instructed to do so.
- ✓ When not using the iPad, it will be out of sight.
- ✓ Students will leave their iPad in the district-approved case.
- ✓ Students will only use the iPad camera when instructed to do so.
- ✓ Students will not take the iPad into the restroom.

Consequences:

- ✓ 1st Offense = Warning
- ✓ 2nd Offense = Student will be locked into Guided Access
- ✓ 3rd Offense = iPad will be taken away for the class period

**Habitual infractions will lead to a conference with principals, parents, and teachers.*

SMS PBIS- SCHOOL-WIDE RULES AND NORMS

	ALL SCHOOL SETTINGS & ACTIVITIES	CLASSROOM	HALLWAY	RESTROOM	BUS	CAFETERIA	OUTSIDE	AUDITORIUM
DUTY (RESPONSIBILITY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Engage in class activities * Take ownership of actions * Follow dress code * Choose responsible seat * Follow school policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Be prepared * Be on time * Follow classroom procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Use time wisely during 4 minute passing time * "Walk and talk" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Always use hall pass * Use water fountain and restrooms during passing time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Arrive to bus in a timely manner * Be friendly to your bus driver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Clean up after yourself * Stay seated in one location * Keep food, drink, and sporks in cafeteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Line up quickly and lower voice volume * Put equipment up immediately when asked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sit in your designated area * Alert teachers if there is a problem
HONOR (RESPECT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * "Pay it forward"; Use respectful tone of voice and appropriate language * Obey school staff * Be aware of personal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Be kind to staff and peers * Offer to help those in need academically and otherwise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Use respectful tone of voice and appropriate language * Allow others to get to class on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keep restroom clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Use respectful tone of voice and appropriate language * Listen to driver and follow bus rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Be kind to workers * Use inside voice * Maintain your place in line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Share equipment * Wait your turn * Use respectful tone of voice and appropriate language * Keep hands and feet to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Use respectful tone of voice and appropriate language * Give respect to those on stage
PEACE (SAFETY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hands feet and objects to self * Be calm and follow procedures * Drug free School * Be respectful of personal belongings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Treat others as you want to be treated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Walk while you talk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Wait patiently for your turn * Report Problems * Wash hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stay in seat * Keep aisle clear * Keep hands and other objects inside the bus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Wait in single file line * Notify staff of spills * Walk into and out of cafeteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rocks and other items stay on ground * Use equipment appropriately * Notify staff of any injuries * "Pay it Forward" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Observe personal space * Leave all materials and belongings in classroom
PRIDE (DO YOUR BEST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keep all areas clean * Speak positively of self, school, and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Accept learning challenges with a positive attitude * Give your best effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keep halls clean * Help others in need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keep Restroom clean * Limit chatting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Check seat for belongings * Keep bus clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Use manners * Keep food on tray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Be kind to each other * Keep area clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keep Auditorium looking "SWEET"