United States History

Syllabus for Semester II - 2016

Mr. Shumate

**Mission Statement**:

Students are expected to examine the course of United States history from the Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860’s, through the early 1990’s with the fall of the Soviet Union.

**Course Description:**  
Students will achieve mastery in this course through a variety of major political, social, economic, technological, and cultural developments associated with the steady rise of the United States as a world superpower. Students will be incorporated in various methods of instruction to achieve this objective. The class entails a brief overview of the United States Constitution, and then moves on to the United States Civil War. The course concludes with significant events occurring during the late 20th century.

**Texts:** Gerald A. Danzer, et al., *The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century.*

**Participation:**

Students are expected to come to class everyday with a three ring binder, and either a pencil or pen to write with. Every student is expected to be attentive and focused during the whole class time. Students are expected to participate fully in class. Any student who does not come to class prepared and ready for that day’s lesson, will not receive full participation credit for that day, and as a result will fall behind.

**Overview of topics covered in class:**

•   The United States Constitution  
•   The United States Civil War 1860-1865  
•   Reconstruction 1865-1875  
•   The Great Westward expansion (Native American Wars, Settling the Great Plains, Famers and the Populist movement) 1875-1895  
•   The Gilded Age (Expansion of Industry, Big Business, Railroads, Immigration, and Urbanization)1865-1920  
•   Imperialism (The Spanish American War) 1890-1910  
•   WWI era events 1914-1920  
•   Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression 1920-1941  
•   Dictators Threaten World Peace (War in Europe, WWII, the Holocaust) 1931-1945  
•   The Cold War (Korean War, Vietnam War, Cuban Missile Crisis) The Great Society, Segregation, Civil Rights)  1945-1989  
 **Assignments:**

Assignments in this class will come in many different categories. Class work that is completed through worksheets must be written in complete sentences. Assigned work is to be completed in full and on time.   
  
**Research Paper:**

A research paper will be required for successful graduation from this class. The paper will be broken down into two 5 page papers based on some aspect of United States history.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will occur at the end of every chapter to ensure student mastery of the information.

**Final:**

There is a final for this class that will take place on the last week of school for year-long classes and at the end of the semester for half a year courses. The Final will be worth 20% of the final average. Those who are not in class the day of the final will automatically fail.

**Extra Credit:**  
There will be different assignments during the semester in which extra credit will be given. The assignments for the extra credit will be announced during class.

**Grades:**   
This class is based on a point system. All points will be cumulated at the end of the semester and calculated out of the total number of points possible. This ensures that every assignment has meaningful value.

**Rules:**   
The golden rule:  
*“Thou shall not run out of work!”*

Expectations and rules for the classroom are consistent with Worcester County Public School policies on such matters.

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