

Mr. Garcia
Office 2642
Room 2624
Hours:9:45-10:40,2:10-3:00
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American History: Discovery to Present

The compelling question and course goal of this class is; ***How does the past help us understand the present?*** In order to explore this question this class will look at American History thematically. In other words, instead of starting at the very beginning of American History and finishing with the most recent events in our history, we will look at U.S. history from the perspective of five different sets of smaller focus questions:

Unit 1: American Foundations, Rebellion, and Civil War: ***How do foundational events help us understand present issues?***

Unit 2: Civil Rights: ***Why does social change happen?***

Unit 3: Immigration: ***To what extent has the American Dream been an achievable reality?***

Unit 4: Boom and Bust: ***To what extent has the American Dream been an achievable reality?***

Unit 5: Friends, Foes, and Fanatics: ***Does might make right?***

Classroom Expectations:

1. Treat each other with respect
2. Be on time
3. Come prepared to class

Material Required:

1. Chromebook
2. Binder
3. Highlighters
4. Writing utensil (Pen and/or Pencil)

Textbooks Used:

United States History by Emma J. Lapsansky-Werner, Peter B. Levy, Randy Roberts and Alan Taylor

A People's History of the United States: Teaching Edition Abridged by Howard Zinn

Attendance:

I expect you to be in class everyday unless you have an excused absence. If your absence is justified then **it is your responsibility to find out what work you need to make-up.**

Homework:

I do not intend to formally assign homework this school year. I intend to give assignments that will be given during class and allowed time to complete in class. If more time is required for you to complete an assignment then it is your responsibility to use time outside of class to complete it.

Class Participation:

This will be an interactive class and will include simulations, discussions, and activities. Therefore, your participation is crucial if you want to be successful and if you want the class to be enjoyable. Participation will compose **20%** of your grade.

Assessments:

From time to time I will provide you with an assessment of your knowledge of the material we have covered during a particular unit. It might consist of a multiple choice exam, essay, Socratic seminar or a project. If you come to class, do your work, and review a bit, these assessments will be no problem and should be an enjoyable experience for all involved. Assessments will compose **80%** of your grade.

Grades:

My grading system is very simple: **80% Assessments and 20% Participation.**

A 90%-100%

B 80%-89%

C 70%-79%

D 60%-69%

F below 59%

Late Work:

I will accept late work as long as the work is within the current unit we are studying, or a week into the next unit. For example, I will not accept late work from Unit 2 during Unit 4.

Assessment Retakes:

Retakes on assessments will be available for all students. It is your responsibility to complete retakes within **three weeks** of the initial assessment. However, to qualify for a retake you must demonstrate to me that you have prepared and are ready to retake the assessment.