US History ~ Mr. Wimsett
Syllabus & Class Expectations

Introduction: What is our nation's history? Is there a way to describe the United States' past in a sentence or two? The Founders may have summed it up best:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." - Declaration of Independence, 1776

From the moment these words were written until this moment today, Americans have been living their lives in an attempt to bring to life the fullness of these words. We have struggled over words like "all men" and "created equal." Did this apply to women? To persons without property? To enslaved persons? We have argued about the meaning of such phrases as "Creator" and "life." We continue to pursue happiness in all of its forms.

In this course, we will attempt to study important events and learn about individual stories of people who have helped to shape the America that we know today. We will do a quick overview of early America and then jump right into the birth of our nation. Along our journey, we will cover many topics: *Independence, Expansion and its impact on Native Tribes, Slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialization, Women's Suffrage, the major World Wars, the Cold War, Civil Rights, the Vietnam War, and the Energy Crisis.* These are just some of the highlights that we will cover in this course.

Attendance: While attendance is not an official part of your grade, it can have a major impact on your success in this class. Because classroom participation is crucial to being successful in this class, you need to be here as much as humanly possible. Generally, missing work is due when you return from your absence. If you have an extended absence, you need to come and talk to me about setting up a reasonable timeline for turning in the work you missed. As a student you are responsible for making up any missing work. I will not chase you down to give you your work! If you miss a quiz or test, you are responsible for making it up.

Bathroom Breaks: Typically, during the first few minutes of class and last few minutes of class, I do not allow individuals to go to the bathroom. This allows me an opportunity to give you important instructions about what you need to accomplish for the day or for the next day. Throughout the class period, I will allow individuals to go to the bathroom. Be sure to ask and receive permission before you leave the classroom. If granted permission, you will need to sign out and take the hall pass with you. When you return, you will sign back into class and return the hall pass.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

> **60 percent of your grade will be based upon summative assessments (tests, reports, projects, essays, presentations, and any task where I am assessing your mastery of knowledge or skills learned in class).**
>
> **40 percent of your grade will be based upon daily assignments/homework.**

School-Wide Grading Scale:

93% to 100% = A
89.50% to 92.50% = A-

86.50% to 89.49% = B+
82.50% to 86.49% = B
79.50% to 82.49% = B-

76.50% to 79.49% = C+
72.50% to 76.49% = C
69.50% to 72.49% = C-

66.50% to 69.49% = D+
59.50% to 66.49% = D

59.49% & below = F

Students will have opportunities to retake tests, revise essays, and improve their scores on projects.

There is NO penalty for late work. I know that students learn at different rates and sometimes students need extra time to complete assignments. The key is clear communication between you and me.

Responsibilities:

As an educator, my responsibility is to: (1) share my knowledge and passion of history with you, and (2) help you to succeed in this class & in life. I will put forth my best effort in these endeavors.

As a student you have responsibilities. These include:

- Giving your best effort daily.
- Treating everyone with civility (you don't have to like me or your classmates, but you must be respectful).
- Coming to class on-time and prepared to learn (that includes having all of the materials needed for class).
- Following the expectations that have been outlined in this syllabus.
- **Finally, please keep all of your personal electronic devices out of sight! These include cell phones, headphones, etc. Please note this a school-wide emphasis this year. We want to limit distractions from learning and have students be fully present in class.**

I am looking forward to a great school year!

Tear off this last page, sign it, and have a parent/guardian sign it.

This is your first assignment in the gradebook.

I have reviewed the course syllabus & class expectations for Mr. Wimsett's US History class.

Student Signature_____

Student's name printed_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____