**MODERN US HISTORY**

Mr. Sullivan 210

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**A.DESCRIPTION**

This course involves a careful examination of events, important persons and politics that have influenced the culture, political climate and socio-economic atmosphere of the United States beginning with the period of the Reconstruction and ending with the modern era from 1992- present. It will provide students with a basic understanding of the second half of America’s existence, answering the why and how relating to our current position in the landscape in today’s globalized and ever changing political system.

**B.ORGANIZATION**

This class will be a mixture consisting of mostly lecture, but will also include media presentations, group discussion and student presentations of material and projects. There will be comprehensive quarterly mid-year and final assessments, chapter tests, mid-chapter quizzes, writing assignments (topics will address textbook material or will be in response to assigned outside reading selections), student PowerPoint presentations, student outlines to lead class discussions, you should expect one major research writing assignment this year and students will be participating and will submit a major project for the National History Day program.

**C. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To introduce students to the events of modern US history that have shaped our nation and to the dynamic people and personalities of modern US history
2. To introduce students to various forms of historical information and to the skills needed to properly validate the sources of information.
3. To introduce students to new methods for interpreting different versions of the same event by using a standard method of directed thought.
4. To orient students to the multiple geo-political systems, important events and personal interactions and how they shaped the course of modern human society and its political interactions.
5. To introduce students to the concept that the course of a nation-state’s history is molded both domestically and internationally
6. To provide students with opportunities to develop basic understanding, generate excitement and foster enthusiasm about history.

**D.COURSE TOPICS**

The course will cover the following topics:

1. Reconstruction
2. Industrial Revolution
3. Westward Expansion
4. Gilded Age
5. Imperialism
6. Progressivism
7. World War 1
8. 1920’s
9. Crash and Depression
10. New Deal
11. World War 2
12. Cold War
13. Post-War Years at home
14. Kennedy and Johnson Years
15. Civil Rights and Other Social Movement
16. Vietnam War
17. Nixon, Ford, Carter
18. Conservative Revolution 1980-1992
19. Entering a new era 1992-present

**E. TEXT AND REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

Prentice Hall: *America Pathways to the Present* by Cayton, Perry, Reed, Winkler

F. GRADING PLAN

Each quarter will have 800 total points.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Homework/Class work | 20 assessments at 10 points | 200 points |
| Tests / Papers | 3 at 100 points | 300 points |
| Quizzes | 7 at 14 points | 100 points |
| Participation / Attendance 35 classes | 5 points per day | 175 points |

You will be given 25 points to start each quarter; this covers excused absence for 3 classes and an additional 10 points of charity.

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**Exams/Projects/Writing**

Exams and projects and writing assignments are a major part of this class. You will have an exam at the end of most units, standardized quarterly exams as well as standardized comprehensive mid-year and comprehensive final assessments. Tests will consist of some combination of multiple choice, vocabulary assessment, open-ended answers and essay prompts. Depending on the unit some assessments may consist of a writing assignment only.

We will do a variety of projects, individual or group based. The projects will include some projects will require that you present to the class. Also you will be assigned (a minimum of once, more if time allows) a Foreign county that you must prepare an outline and teach to class about that country, then hold class discussion following the presentation. You will be assigned the country and the schedule at random.

World history day will occur during spring. It is a nation-wide program that we will be preparing group projects as entries. I will give you more details as the time approaches. I promise we will have fun with this event and the chance exists to win a trip to Washington.

**Quizzes**

We will have regular quizzes in class; they will be short and used to check your level of understanding for work done outside of class.

**Attendance**

This class meets at least 3 days per week; you are expected to be there for every session. ***Being in class includes bringing you book, binder and writing utensil every day.*** Coming to class without any of these items will lower your participation or quiz grade for the day and repeated unpreparedness could lead to failure. If you have an excused absence you have 1 week (7 days) to make up any class work or quizzes you have missed. If you miss an exam you have 2 school days to schedule the makeup. After two school days the test will be recorded as a zero. Tardiness is unacceptable. There is no distance in this building that cannot be covered between bells. You will lose participation points when you are tardy and habitual tardiness could lead to failure.

**Participation**

***You are expected to bring your book, binder, and something to write with every class***. You are expected to have finished all assignments that are due for the class (this includes assigned readings) before you enter the room and you should expect to speak in discussions or ask questions to clarify any confusion. In terms of speaking and participating in this class there is nothing to be afraid of everyone in here is your equal, you are expected to respect every other student by not interrupting your peers when they speak. See rubric.

**Writing Assignments**

There will be major writing assignments. We will have multiple drafts and spend plenty of time perfecting your document based writing (DBA’s). There will also be a number of opinion based shorter responses (3-5 pages) during the year. As well as weekly current event writing assignments that are normally one page in length. You will be graded on your ideas, content, understanding and structure. We will be using Collins style focus correction areas to grade all writing.

**Homework**

Homework is the most important type of assessment in this class. You will receive a grade for every piece of work that you do. Please be sure to complete each assignment to the best of your ability. If you have your homework done well for every class you will succeed in this class.

**G. CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT**

*Respect, Honor, Trust*

The number 1 rule in my class is the “Golden Rule” “Treat others as you wish to be treated.” If you feel there is an issue please make me aware immediately so we can resolve it before it can interrupt our collective learning process. We will be having group discussions and presentations, where students will be doing a majority of the speaking, respect their opportunity to voice their opinions even if you disagree. Respect the fact that all of your peers are in class to learn please do not become a distraction if you lack interest. What you get out of this class is entirely dependent on your effort and desire to succeed.

*Honesty* is a virtue of your character you decide if you possess it or if you do not; do not be dishonest with me or your work. Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero for the assignment and may carry a sterner penalty. This includes copying homework.

Trust is something this is earned, behave like an adult and I will treat you as such. If you cannot be trusted you will miss out on opportunities in this class.

You must have the pass when you leave the room; I reserve the right to revoke the right to leave the room if you are abusing the privilege. If you need to go to the restroom, go before my class.

**H. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Follow the directions posted during a fire alarm.

If a situation arises Mr. Sullivan will explain any directions.

 **I. CELL PHONE / iPOD POLICY**

Winthrop High School does not allow students to use their phones or headphones during classes. And suggests students should lock their phones in their locker; the use of phones is prohibited in class. If you are found using your phone in this class you will lose participation points, the device will be confiscated and you will need to report to me after school for a teacher session as well as retrieve the phone. For the second and subsequent offenses the phone will be turned over to the administration, points will be deducted and I will notify your family who will need to pick up the device. Please avoid this by locking any devices in your locker.

**J. FOOD/DRINK POLICY**

Food is not allowed in my classroom. Please leave your lunch or snacks in your locker. You are only allowed to drink water in the class. Any other drinks will be thrown away.

**K. SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS**

Follow the rules, sit up front, get involved, have fun, it’s the easiest way to succeed in my class. Don’t worry about the big picture. Take care of small details if you do the big picture will always take care of itself.

Participation Rubric

The number 3 refers to the items you need for each class; book, binder, writing utensil

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| Failing 1 pt | Poor 2 pts | Fair 3 pts | Good 4 pts | Exemplary 5 pts |
| 0 of 3, not paying attention, asleep, asked to leave, tardy more than 2 minutes  | 1 of 3, not paying attention for extended periods, no participation, tardy less than 2 minutes, cell phone | 2 of 3, paying attention most of class, on time  | 3 of 3 paying attention most of class, on time | 3 of 3, paying attention, on time |

Supplies List

1 inch binder

Paper

Colored pencils / Crayons

Markers