

## American History

School Year 2022-2023

Ms. Emily Wheeler

Periods 1, 5, & 7

Helena High School

Rm. 20

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**"The past feels distant even when it's near and the future seems assured even though it isn't..."**

### Brief Overview

Welcome students and parents! This course will cover the story of us. Starting with the roots of American Independence and moving-up towards modern events, we will attempt to deeply understand several themes of history that affect us every day. Through energetic discussions, engaging readings, immersive activities, and comprehensive projects; we will explore some of the most pivotal events throughout American history. Class participation, regular attendance, and hands-on projects are also incredibly important to this course.

### Students will learn...

- the multitude and variation of unique cultures that embody the American identity.*
- the ever-changing makeup of the United States due to migration.*
- a deeper understanding of various political belief systems throughout American history.*
- the evolution of government (and economic) stances and powers.*
- their own personal rights and responsibilities as American citizens.*
- a grasp of the massive changes in culture due to science and technology.*
- the pertinence of the study of history in the modern world.*
- the similarities and differences between modern times and America's past.*
- the influence and interaction between different peoples, Nations, and regions.*

### Students will demonstrate...

- the ability to use print and online sources to answer questions and make inferences.*
- the skill to analyze primary and secondary sources to find meaning.*
- the expertise to compile several sources to express a relevant point of view.*
- the articulation of opinions and facts through written and verbal mediums.*
- the completion of an eloquent and time-conscious written response.*

## **Required Materials**

**School Supplies:** Students are expected to bring all necessary school supplies to class every day, unless otherwise stated. This includes a 3-ring binder (or notebook) that is specifically designated for History, pens/pencils, highlighters/colored pens, **FULLY CHARGED** Chromebook (or personal computer or device), and an agenda (or similar organizational tool). Artistic supplies (colored pencils, markers) will be needed when requested ahead of time.

**Technology and TEAMS:** This is necessary to view schedule updates, deadlines, class announcements, collaborate with classmates, make-up absent work, complete assignments, view study materials, and access required readings. It is your responsibility as a student to regularly check TEAMS for updates. If you do not have this access, please come speak with me.

## **Grading Policies:**

### ***Quizzes: 35%***

Quizzes which consist of multiple-choice questions over the major concepts of each unit which will be reviewed in class with activities and notes.

### ***History Detective Investigations: 50%***

Throughout each Unit, students will complete several projects varying in complexity and length. Many require primary and secondary source analysis, written responses, class debates & discussions, role-play, and artistic expression.

### ***Daily Questions & Exit Tickets: 15%***

Students will be randomly called-on at the beginning of the period to answer the Daily Question each day. They are mostly graded on effort and preparedness, rather than accuracy, so just preparing an answer at the start of class is half the battle. Exit Tickets will often be administered at the end of class and are also largely graded on effort and completeness, but with feedback provided.

## Policies and Procedures

### Rules:

#### 1. *Be Responsible:*

Examples include coming with the appropriate reading materials, notebook, pens/pencils, project materials, on-time, ready to learn, putting your name on papers, checking TEAMS regularly, sending chats/e-mails with concerns, BEING in CHARGE of YOUR OWN LEARNING...

#### 2. *Be Safe:*

Helping keep the classroom neat & orderly, following all posted safety instructions, no hitting, no running, no throwing, surfing the internet with safe practices...

#### 3. *Be Respectful:*

Examples include cleaning-up after yourself, asking permission before borrowing/touching possessions, following directions (the first time), staying off electronic devices when instructed, avoid talking (or other distracting behaviors) when the teacher is instructing...

#### 4. *Be Caring:*

Examples include respecting others' opinions, including everyone in group activities and discussions, working with partners/groups assigned easily and readily, avoiding foul or inappropriate language, greeting each day with as much enthusiasm and cheer as possible, under no circumstances engaging in bullying or degrading behaviors...

**Cell Phones/Electronics:** Cell phones and electronics are only permitted when permission has been explicitly given by the instructor. If use is deemed inappropriate or disrespectful, your cell phone will be confiscated. Use of cell phones must be EARNED on an individual basis.

**Late Work:** LATE WORK WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED until the end of that unit. It will be deducted by 10% per each day late up to 50%. This does not apply to excused absences. I am happy to make accommodations when you speak with me ahead of time.

**Absences:** It is your responsibility to contact me when you are absent to receive work and check understanding. Excused absences will receive 2 additional days to complete work. Assignments or quizzes that were scheduled before your absence are due or expected to be taken that day you return. E-Mail me if you have unexpected absences that conflict with large projects. I am happy to accommodate, especially if you become sick or must be quarantined.

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** In accordance with HHS Academic policies, dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in my classroom. I am always checking your assignments for plagiarism through extremely sensitive databanks. IT IS CONSIDERED CHEATING WHEN I HAVE NOT GIVEN EXPLICIT DIRECTION TO WORK TOGETHER. Any assignment that was completed dishonestly will be given a 0 and you will be referred to the administration for further disciplinary actions.

*The inability to follow these guidelines will result in the following actions: ONE warning, detention, home communication of the behavior with detention, and then administrative attention such as suspension or expulsion. Depending on the severity of the misbehavior, one or more disciplinary actions may be skipped.*

## Course Schedule

\*Official Due Dates to be determined and posted on TEAMS\*

### First Semester:

- Unit 1 - Foundations of American History (1700s-1791)
- Unit 2 - Sectionalism: The Road to the Civil War (1790-1865)
- Unit 3 - Reconstruction (1864-1896)
- Unit 4 - Gilded Age (1865-1920)

**Major Projects:** Declaration of *Independence* Breakup Letter, *Hamilton* Movie Analysis, Andrew Jackson Debate Det., Rise of Slavery Det., *Readings from the Slave Narratives* Documentary, Reform Era Poster, Lincoln-Douglas Debates Close-Read, Civil War Political Cartoons, Rise of the KKK Det., East vs. West Postcards Det., Ellis Island Det., Labor Unions Det., Populism Det., Gilded Age Paintings

### Second Semester:

- Unit 5 - Progressivism (1890-1920)
- Unit 6 - Imperialism & WWI (1890-1920)
- Unit 7 - 1920s (1919-1929)
- Unit 8 - Great Depression & the New Deal (1925-1940)
- Unit 9 - World War II & the Cold War (1930-1991)
- Unit 10 - Modern Era (1950s-2010)

**Major Projects:** Muckrakers Det., *Iron-Jawed Angels* Movie Analysis, Imperialism Map and Readings, America as a World Power Debate., Trench Warfare Game., WWI Propaganda Posters, 1920s Extravaganza, Depression Era Poems, Alphabet Soup Posters, *Fat Man and Little Boy* Movie Analysis, 21st Century Research Projects

**I agree to follow the guidelines outlined in Ms. Wheeler's 2022-2023 American History Syllabus as stated directly.**

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_