**American History 10**

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| **“History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are”~David C. McCullough**  **“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.” Malcolm Forbes** |

History is not simply dates and facts to be memorized. It provides the context to truly understand the world in which we live. Learning different perspectives and viewpoints of historical events is necessary to understand human motivation. Over the course of this school year you discover content in American History and government, but you will also utilize your critical thinking skills. At the end of this year, you will emerge an improved reader, writer, analyzer and communicator. You will develop a proficiency in working with others and become a more effective problem solver. These are the 21st century skills vital for success in whatever career path you choose to take in life.

**Learning goals**

* An understanding of the history of the United States by the examination and analysis of events that occurred from the pre-colonial period through present day
* Increased confidence and proficiency in critical thinking skills

**Tentative Schedule**

* The first few weeks of class will consist of a review of the fundamentals needed to develop an understanding modern American History. These shall include: colonial settlement, our Foundational documents, Constitutional development and sectionalism, Manifest Destiny, the workings of government, and the political spectrum.
* The remainder of the year will be a more in-depth analysis of modern American History including: Reconstruction, The Transcontinental Railroad, westward expansion, The Second Industrial Revolution, Immigration, Progressivism, World War I, the “Roaring Twenties”, The Great Depression, World War II, The Cold War Years, The Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the 1970’s “A Crisis of Confidence”.

**Class Activities**

* To learn the above information, you will engage in a variety of activities, which will include small group discussion and work, large-group discussion, in-class lecture, projects, analysis of audio-visual materials, and primary source readings, and practice in research.

## Grading and Class Participation

* Grades for the class will be issued as a straight percentage of total number of possible points earned. Points will be earned though a combination of assignments, research projects, quizzes, group work, exams, and class participation.
* You need to be engaged in your learning process. This is the key to your success. It is not enough to simply be here. Class participation points are earned through positive participation in discussion, classroom work, behavior, and responsibility. If you are prepared for class, attentive, and offer comments that are consistently constructive you will receive a good participation grade. Conversely, if you are disruptive in class, or are inattentive, your participation grade will reflect that.

**Grading Scale**

90-100% of total points = A

80-89% of total points = B

70-79% of total points = C

60-69% of total points = D

Below 60% of total points = F

**Absences and make-up work**

Much of what is learned in class is gained through participation and discussion and cannot be made up so regular attendance is important. However, some absences are unavoidable, and you are responsible for finding out what was missed in class. I will not do that for you. Ask a classmate that you trust or me what you missed. Always check the front table or make-up folder for any missed assignments. Additionally, you access my teacher page for American History at http://hsteachers.aitkin.k12.mn.us/ for missed activities, assignments, and for extra copies of assignments.

Completed make-up work goes in the appropriate folder on my desk.

**Late Work and Missed Tests**

* Readings and assignments are given to support and enrich the learning objectives and need to be completed in a timely manner to be truly effective. It is unfair to the rest of your class to come to class unprepared to discuss the topic at hand. I give sufficient time to complete work, and there is really no reason for assignments to be late. Work turned in late will receive a penalty in point value. Work more than one week late will be a significant reduction in the earned score. Repeated late or missing assignments will result in a substantial reduction in your overall grade.
* If you miss a test you need to make arrangements with me to take it either during homeroom or some day before or after school.

**Textbook**

* *American History*, Pearson- Prentice Hall , Publisher. You may leave your textbook ***labeled with*** ***your name*** in the classroom.

**Passes**

You need to try to take care as bathroom and water breaks before class if at all possible. They interrupt your own learning process and disrupt the flow of the class. If you need to use the restroom you may do so ***if the pass is available*** and ***I have granted permission***. Sign out on the sign-out sheet by the door and take the pass with you. Sign in when you return. Please wait for a **convenient time that will cause little class disruption. \*\***

**Cell phone and I-pods Policy**

**No cell phones**. Period. They are a distraction even when turned off. Each student is assigned a numbered pocket and every student will place his/her cell phone in the assigned pocket with the power turned off. This should be done before the bell rings and class starts. Your phone will remain secure and visible to you during the hour so there will be no need to worry about anyone taking it. In fact, you won’t need to worry about it at all. This policy is non-negitionable. Violation of it will result in an office referral and confiscation of the phone.

\*\* Exceptions to the policy (as in the case of an emergency or caregiver situation) will be made on a case-by-case basis and only with prior permission from me.

**Behavior Expectations**

**Be nice.**

**Treat others with respect.**

**Respect and take care of the classroom.**

**Come to class prepared and on time.**

**Remain on task during class time.**

**Participate in a positive manner**

Your opinion is valuable and your positive input will make class more interesting for all of us. Please make your comments positive in nature and considerate of others. All students have a right to feel safe and secure at school.

**Follow school rules**

**Use good manners and common sense**

**Keys to Success**

**You will have certain academic success in the class if you:**

Complete assignments on time, pay attention, participate, and exhibit responsibility.

**You will have certain academic success AND an exceptional, fun, rewarding learning experience if you:**

Complete assignments on time, pay attention, participate, and exhibit responsibility, AND bring a positive attitude, open mind, enthusiasm, and a love of learning.

Parent signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Integrity**

***Academic integrity***-adherence *to moral and ethic principles (honesty) in academic pursuits*

Academic integrity is important and based upon the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

All work assigned in the course has value and a goal. When you take a “shortcut” you do not reach the goal of the assignment or obtain the value of the experience, and you shortchange your learning process. It is important that you complete all work in this course.

***What it is:***

* Doing your own work
* Reading
* Citing sources
* Proper paraphrasing and summary
* Studying for tests and completing them on your own
* Cooperative learning techniques (See Cooperative learning techniques below)

***What it is not:***

* Copying another’s work….even if they give you permission.
* Asking for a summary of another’s reading, or waiting for class discussion but not doing the actual reading
* Using sources without citing them
* Copying another’s test/quiz. Obtaining answers in any other way than through your own thoughts.
* Splitting the work, one person finds the answers another copies, etc.

**Cooperative learning techniques:** When I allow you to work together on an assignment I expect that you each read the material, discuss material, and assist the other. This does not mean that: you divide the work and write the same answers, that one person finds the answers and others copy. This is not cooperative learning…this is cheating. I take infractions of this very seriously. If I find evidence of copying an assignment with handed in work:

* All students involved will split the score. i.e. on a 50 pt research project that is graded at a 45/50….if there are five students involved……the score will be a 9/50 for each student.
* If I find students copying work from ***any*** class, I will confiscate it and give to the instructor of the class.
* Cheating on papers, tests, and quizzes will receive an automatic “zero”