

American History Syllabus

TERRA Environmental Research Institute

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History: History is based upon the written account of human activity from the emergence of human beings many millions of years ago through the present day. We will use literature, primary documents, research, and historical analysis to examine the key aspects and themes of American History. By integrating the fields of social science and the humanities, we will gain a better understanding of the art, culture, economics, history, geography, literature, philosophy, political science, and social essence that is America and American History. Nevertheless, sufficient material will be presented so as to give students a thorough outline of American History. We will attempt to understand the past and recognize its contribution to the present and the future. Incorporating this unique approach into our studies will provide students with a greater awareness of the significance of American History.

Reading: Reading is the life-blood of all good academic and intellectual development. However, it is often viewed as a boring process, something that should only be performed for completion, as opposed to reading for comprehension. We will attempt to make reading as exciting as possible, because the knowledge acquired through the process of reading comprehension is empowering for all who engage in it.

Writing: Writing is simple; yet, good writing is often a painstaking process for many students. We will attempt to develop and enhance your writing skills by engaging in journal assignments and current event critiques that will be completed each week and allow you to improve your writing through the best possible task – practicing it.

***Films:** I will supplement our curriculum this year through film. Some of the movies, however, have an R rating. Parents, your signature at the end of this form serves as consent for your child to watch these films. The following list contains the titles of movies that I may show this year— please note that some will not be shown in their entirety, but rather provide clips to enhance our discussions. If I were to add a movie, I would provide you with written notification for further consent.

Last of the Mohicans—French & Indian War
The Patriot—American Revolution
Glory – Civil War
Into the West – Westward Expansion
Legends of The Fall – Early 20th century, WWI, & the 1920s
Cinderella Man– Depression Era
The Thin Red Line – WWII
All The President's Men– Watergate Scandal
Three Kings – Persian Gulf War

Materials

3 ring binder with paper
2 Pens (ONLY Blue or Black)
Highlighters

Classroom Expectations

1. RESPECT yourself, your classmates, and the TEACHER.
2. Appropriate attire is expected at all times.
3. NO FOOD or DRINK.
4. Be prepared. Unprepared students will not be able to complete their tasks and will not receive a grade for that assignment.
5. Raise your hand, wait to be acknowledged, and then you may speak.
6. If you are not in your seat when the bell rings, you are LATE.
7. You are expected to be kind, respectful and tolerant of others' religion, heritage, language, and appearance.
8. I do not accept late work!!

CONDUCT

Appropriate behavior is essential for the learning environment. Any student behaving inappropriately will be given a verbal reprimand, if the behavior continues a detention will be issued and a write-up will be placed in his/her record. Further reprimands will be followed by a call home and a parent conference. Anything beyond this will be handled by the school's administration.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A student accumulating 10 or more unexcused class absences in an annual course will be subject to the withholding of a final credit. Check the Curriculum Bulletin for more information. **Attendance is crucial!! If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the make-up work; thus, you must call or e-mail a classmate or your teachers immediately. Moreover, you will be held responsible for the work you missed during an absence upon your return. This rule also applies to field trips. If an assignment is due on the day of a field trip, you must stop by our room to drop it off before you leave.**

GRADING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

A	90-100%	Outstanding	4pts.
B	80-89 %	Good	3pts.
C	70-79 %	Satisfactory	2pts.
D	60-69%	Minimal	1pt.
F	0-59%	Unsatisfactory	0pts.

Parent Movie Consent Form

Parents, prior to signing, please review the Film section of this syllabus. If there are any questions, please contact me at 305-412-5800 or via email at pcaroddo@dadeschools.net. Thank you.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____