



Mr. Polson's Pre-AP American History Syllabus

Course Objectives:

- 1.) To give each student an understanding of how his or her world is affected by outside influences.
 - 2.) To give each student enough information, experience and training to allow for involvement in the community.
 - 3.) To examine this nation's history in order to bind us together by gaining a common knowledge of events, problems, achievement, failures, strengths, weaknesses, ideals and peoples.
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Calculation of Grades:

Test averages are weighed as 60% of grades. Homework and in class writing assignments are 40% of grades.

Semester grades are calculated as follows:

Semester Test weighted as 10% of semester grade

The weighted test, homework and writing grades are 90% of the semester grade.

Schools grading Scale:

A	equal to or greater than 90%
B	less than 90% but greater than 80%
C	less than 80% but greater than 70%
D	less than 70% but greater than 60%
F	less than 60%

Test grades are weighted more heavily, because it is on tests that the student demonstrates his or her command of the subject matter. It should be noted that it will be difficult to pass the course if homework is neglected, both areas are important.

Late work:

NONE ACCEPTED, unless related to an excused absence. The student will have the same number of days to turn in the assignment as the excused absence. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

The Classroom:

All students are expected to be in the classroom on time (see student handbook) and to bring with them each day the materials needed to participate in class. Normally this will include a notebook, paper and pen or pencil.

NOTE: Any work turned in for grading **MUST NOT BE** on spiral paper torn out of a note book. Each assignment should be completed on a separate sheet of paper (not two or more on the same sheet). Spiral paper **WILL NOT BE GRADED**, the student will receive a zero (0) for that assignment and no make up will be allowed!

History Notebook:

A notebook will be turned in as a TEST GRADE at the end of each 9 weeks. The notebook will be made up of notes taken in class and/or individual student notes over the subject matter. The notes must be hand written, no typed or duplicated notes will be permitted. The notes may be an exact hand written duplicate of the outline shown in class. A duplicate will result in a grade of an 89% or B+. To get an A on the notebook the student must take additional notes or include explanatory information that is given as the lecture is being given. The notebook must be an inexpensive folder with the three pronged fasteners inside to hold the paper in, **NO** three ring binders, spiral notebooks, manila folders, clear plastic cover or any other type notebook. The notebook is to be in order by chapter and section with each section highlighted and only notes and personal notes are to be in the notebook when handed in **NO HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS** are to be in the notebook when turned in for grading!! Specific instructions will be given in class.

Procedures:

Presentation of material will be varied, but for the most part, will include lecture and note presentation, videos, class discussion, independent study reading historical novels and review via Jeopardy games played before most tests.

Assignments:

Assignments, homework, will be posted in class on the day assigned and will be taken from the assignment worksheet that has, or will be handed out to you separately. Each assignment has been given a number and you will be responsible for all of the material listed on that assignment, read it carefully! Remember that your work will not be accepted late or will not be graded if turned in on spiral paper.

Tests:

All tests forms will be returned after the test is completed and answers will be written on answer sheets that will be provided.

Conduct/Behavior:

My expectations are that you will treat each other and all school staff members with the same respect that you expect (deserve) to receive. I hope to be able to allow YOUR class to be as informal as possible. This will vary from day to day and from class period to class period depending on what our goals are and behavior observed in class. I want our time together to be as pleasant and productive as possible and even have fun when the situation will allow it. Problems will be dealt with according to procedures outlined in the student handbook.

NOTE: NO Teacher may excuse you from my class time. If another teacher asks you to stay in their class beyond their class time for a test, quiz, or to finish an assignment you need to tell them that you must check with Mr. Polson to make sure that it is OK. They can call me or you can come by my classroom and ask BEFORE missing my class time.

Classroom

NO food, NO drinks (water excepted), NO candy, cough drops (without prior permission),

NO GUM CHEWING and NO application of makeup or grooming in the classroom!!