

U.S. History P
2023-2024, Room #217

Instructor: Ms. Ashley Bell
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Overview:

This course is designed to be a brief look into the history of the United States of America. Beginning in the pre-colonial period and ending in current times, it covers all major aspects of American history during that period including: political, diplomatic, intellectual, cultural, economic and social changes. In addition, the course deals extensively with learning how to read, understand, analyze and interpret a wide variety of both primary and secondary texts together with the maps, graphs and pictorial materials associated with them.

The course also aims to help students learn how to put the knowledge and understanding they are gaining into practice through sharpening their oral and written communication skills. Students will be asked to participate in class in a variety of ways, from individual and group work, to class and small group presentations, to essays and their interactive notebook. This course is designed to create students that are better informed about our past, so they can make sound decisions as they become an active part of our society.

This class is designed to challenge all students. It is designed to prepare them for direct entry into the UC/CSU system, as outlined by the A-G requirements of the UC/CSU system.

- A- G Requirements Include:

- Formulate research questions that can provide the basis for productive investigation.
- Develop library skills, including use of online databases and other research tools.
- Examine the nature of evidence and the ways in which evidence is created, identified, compared and contrasted, curated, and accepted or rejected.
- Undertake a research project so that students learn fundamental elements of historical practice, namely: formulating a question they wish to answer, identifying primary and secondary historical sources, analyzing those sources, and using them to create a narrative and an analytical argument. Such projects may vary in depth and extent as students build skills for research over the high school years.
- Evaluate and communicate information through a variety of written and oral assignments.
- Engage in writing exercises of different lengths, including at least one longer (depending on grade level, 1,000- to 2,000-word) writing project. These exercises may also include visual or web-based presentations of evidence.
- Develop confidence in oral presentation through regular practice.

Format and Procedures:

Students will write four essays and one research paper. All will be typed, printed and in Chicago style format (17th), format is considered 25% of the grade, content is the other 75%. More information will be provided regarding all papers, however **NO** paper will be accepted late. If you run into technical issues you may send your essay to me the day it is due, but a paper copy is due the next day before school starts for credit.

Students will work individually, in pairs and in groups on a regular basis using a variety of texts and will be asked to complete a variety of assignments to show their understanding of important concepts.

Students will have regular homework, including reading and current events. **There is no extra credit.** Each student is allowed three late assignments per quarter for up to half credit, excluding current events and essays. If a student is missing on the day of a test, the student will take it the next day they return to class. It is the student's responsibility to remind me to give the test, and if the student does not make it up the next time they are in class, they lose access to those points.

Students will meet the following expectations,

- **Engage in active learning:** sit up, focus eyes and ears on class activities, participate in class discussion
- **Ensure clear communication with teachers and peers:** store phones and earbuds in backpacks during class
- **Bring required materials:** Chromebook, notebooks, pens/pencils, current texts, etc
- **Attend school every day**
- **Arrive to class on time**

It is a student's responsibility to check the "Missing" bins for what they missed. I will not hand out late work, they must check the bin for their class, where all the necessary work will be stored. If they miss school, look at the bin BEFORE coming to talk to me.

If they are not able to access the internet at home, please let me know ASAP.

Grading Procedures:

Your grade will be composed of four main categories:

- 15% Tests: A test will be given at the end of each unit
- 15% Challenge Assignments: see notes below
- 55% Classwork/Homework: Any work that is completed outside of the notebook, this includes presentations, may include weekly current events, unfinished classwork, reading, etc.
- 15% Participation/Engagement: Attendance, cell phone use, etc.

The grade you earn will be calculated using the following,

- A= 100-90%
- B= 89-80%
- C= 79-70%
- D= 69-60%
- F= 59% and below

Challenge Assignments:

To obtain an "A" the following assignments must all be completed in addition to the regular work. Completed means turning in a finished product that both meets the requirements and is of a high caliber. Students will be given a second chance to revise sub-par work by the date set by the instructor. Students must complete all parts of the assignment.

Quarter 1:

- Read an assigned challenge reading and complete an accompanying assignment (details to follow).
- Chicago-style essay on assigned topic (details to follow).

Quarter 2:

- Read an approved historical biography and write a review of it or have a discussion with the instructor. (details to follow).
- Chicago-style essay on assigned topic (details to follow).

Quarter 3:

- Complete a term paper (details to follow).

Quarter 4:

- Complete a local history project (details to follow).
- Chicago-style essay on assigned topic (details to follow).

Academic Integrity:

I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. Anything that is plagiarized, or any test that was compromised will receive a 0. This includes the use of AI. I ask that all students and their parents/guardians read the attached sheet regarding academic honesty. Repeated instances of cheating/plagiarism/submitting work that's not their own can lead to major impacts to the student's letter grade and/or ability to pass the class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have any needs that need to be addressed regarding any type of disability let me know ASAP.

Inclusivity Statement:

I committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community I ask all of you to:

- Share your unique experiences, values and beliefs
- Be open to the views of others
- Honor the uniqueness of others
- Appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- Value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner

Contact:

I am always available by email to answer any of your questions. I send our weekly updates on Monday mornings that outline the plan for the week and expected due dates, please use these as a guide but be aware that things can and will change.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AGREEMENT

The Santa Rosa City School District's Board Policy 5132.2: Academic Honesty describes cheating and collusion as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work by using dishonest means. Cheating and collusion include but are not limited to

1. Copying, in part or whole, from another's examination, paper [including homework assignments], mathematical calculation[s], research, creative project or the like;
2. Submitting as one's own work an examination, paper, mathematical calculation[s], research or creative project, or the like which has been purchased, borrowed, or stolen;
3. Intentional falsification or invention of data or a source in an academic exercise;
4. Using notes, or materials not specifically authorized by the instructor during an examination;
5. Any collaboration between a student and another person at times or in ways which are not permitted by the instructor.

The following descriptions [from the University of Texas and the University of Exeter] further refine acts of cheating/ collusion:

- Using unauthorized books, notes, electronic aids or other materials in an examination
- Obtaining an examination paper ahead of its authorized release
- Either aiding or obtaining aid, from another person, where such aid is not explicitly permitted in the assignment
- Acting dishonestly in any way, whether before, during or after an examination or other assessment so as to obtain or offer to others an unfair advantage in that examination or assessment
- Allowing someone else to write your papers
- Allowing someone else to modify your essays in any substantive way

The Santa Rosa City School District's Board Policy 51132.2: Academic Honesty describes plagiarism as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work by representing the work of another as one's own (including text found on the Internet) without the necessary and appropriate acknowledgment. Specifically, plagiarism is

- The act of incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's own work;
- The act of representing another's intellectual or creative work such as musical composition, computer program, photograph, painting, drawing, sculpture, research, the like as one's own.

The following descriptions [from the University of Texas and the University of Exeter] further refine acts of plagiarism:

- Failing to acknowledge the sources of any information in your paper which is not either common knowledge or personal knowledge
- Failing to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks when quoting short passages or indentation when quoting longer passages
- Too closely paraphrasing the original words of your source
- Borrowing the ideas, examples or structure of your source without acknowledging it
- Taking, buying or receiving a paper written by someone else and present it as your own
- Using one paper for two different courses, or re-using a paper previously submitted for credit, without the prior approval of both instructors
- Direct copying of text from a book, article, fellow student's essay, handout, web page or other source without proper acknowledgement
- Claiming individual ideas derived from a book, article, etc. as one's own and incorporating them into one's work without acknowledging the source of these ideas
- Overly depending on the work of one or more others without proper acknowledgement of the source, by constructing an essay, project, etc. by extracting large sections of text from another source, and merely linking these together with a few of one's own sentences

I have read and understood the above descriptions and illustrations of cheating, collusion and/or plagiarism and I agree to not engage in any of these acts as a student enrolled in the Santa Rosa City School District.

Student and Parent Acknowledgement

Signing this document signifies that both the undersigned student and guardian have been familiarized with and understand the course requirements, including the materials needed, and policies as outlined in the course syllabus. Further it signifies an acknowledgement by the undersigned student and guardian that failure to fulfill these requirements or failure by the student to follow class policies will affect the student's course grade or result in disciplinary action.

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form back to me no later than the end of the first week. No grades will be assigned until this has been signed and returned.