**American History Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

This course is a survey of both American culture and American government. The students will examine the principles on which the nation is said to be built and our success (or failure?) in achieving those goals. Students will also examine the workings of democracy as the United States emerged as a major world power. Course content begins with the Colonialism, antebellum period and continues to the present. Overall, the students will analyze the political, social, economic, and cultural influences that shaped the nation

**Topics Covered First Semester: Topics Covered Second Semester:**

Lap 1 Colonies to Constitution ` Lap 5 The Gilded Age/ Progressivism

Lap 2 The Making the Constitution work Lap 6 Imperialism and WWI

Lap 3 Sectionalism, Compromise, and the Road to War Lap 7 The Twenties/Great Depression

Lap 4 Civil War and Reconstruction Lap 8 World War II

Lap 9 The Cold War and Civil Rights

**Text:** Boyer, Paul. American Nation. New York: Holt, Reinhart, and Winston. 2005.

**Course Website**: mswolfiwa.weebly.com

**Objectives:**

\* Develop historical skills through critical analysis of historical documents/ sources

\* Develop rhetorical skills by organizing evidence, formulating historical arguments, writing persuasively

and using evidence to support analysis

\* Analyze the political, economic, social, and cultural elements that shaped American democracy

\* Analyze the actions of government leaders in order to learn from their mistakes

**Outcomes:** Thinking, Learning, Communicating, Collaborating, and Creating

\* Become excellent thinkers and master the content literacy elements of Reading, Writing, and Research

\* Appreciate how history and historical writing helps us understand the world today

\* Gain factual knowledge of historical concepts and develop an understanding of the influence of the past

\* Improve communication skills by writing short papers, making oral presentations, and working with

others in groups

**Expectations:**

\* Women of the Word Personify Pride and Excellence. Academic honesty is expected and there is a zero

tolerance for cheating.

\* I will not respond to emails if they are not written in professional manner.

\* I will not accept assignments that are “shared” with me via email.

\*I will respond to all emails sent after 6:00pm, the following morning.

**Assessment:**

\* In most cases, each element of a homework activity is worth 1 point. For example, if an analysis of a

primary document has 15 questions, students can earn up to 15 pts. If a writing assignment has a  
 minimum length requirement of 10 sentences, it will be 10 pts.

\* Unless the assignment outlines that it will be turned in online, I will not accept any work that is not a hard copy. If it is not turned in at the beginning of class, it is late.

\* The class is designed around a Blended- Flipped educational model. Homework assignments will often

include watching a content-based video as an introduction to the next day’s material. If a student

has not watched the video and completed a related task (per the lap) more than twice, she will be

structured in OL.

\* Open Lab assignments are to be done in a Social Studies open lab, a computer lab, or the Commons.

\* Enrichment is offered on each lap for the extension of learning, *not* to replace other grades, and is only   
 available for evaluation after all other work for that lap has been completed.

**Formative assessments:**

\*\*\*\*The full IWA Late Work/ REDO Policy can be found on Mrs. Heidmann’s Weebly page.\*\*\*\*

\* During each Quarter, students are allowed **one** NLP (No Late Penalty) assignment. When the late   
 assignment is turned in, no late points will be deducted. If multiple assignments are missing and   
 then turned in late, the NLP will be given to the assignment worth the most points. If more than   
 one assignment is turned in late, 50% is the only grade a student can receive for those subsequent   
 activities.

\* Any formative assignment not turned in on time can be turned in by the *end of the next* LAP for 50%.

After the next LAP ends, any assignments not turned in will be given a zero and will *no longer be*

*accepted* for credit.

\* If two or more assignments are not turned in on time, parents/ guardians will be contacted and students

may be structured in OL—Social Studies Department.

**Summative assessments:**

\* If all the summative assessments are not completed, the student will fail the course.

\* If a student misses a summative assessment, the student will be required to complete the assessment the   
 following Wednesday morning in the Commons. In addition, the student will receive

a demerit for missing the initial assessment.

\* The grade will be marked “LATE” (or “Absent” as applies) which is a zero, and the cumulative grade   
 will become an “I” for Incomplete until the assessment has been completed.

\* Any student who does not earn a passing grade (64% or below) on a Summative Assessment, will be   
 required to do test corrections in OL and to retake the test/ re-do the assessment by a set time.  
\* The grade will be marked “REDO,” which is a 50% and the cumulative grade will become an “RD.”  
\* If a student fails to complete a required Redo, the grade will permanently remain at 50% (or the original   
 failing score) and she will receive a detention from the teacher.  
\*Redos are now an option for summative scores between 65 and 79%. If begun, the process *must* be   
 completed or the student will receive a detention.

**Absences:**

\* If you miss a class due to short term absence, consult the lap and *keep up* with the home work. See

me in OL for notes and other info. Work is due the class meeting you return. For extended/   
 excessive absences, adjusted due dates will be determined by the teacher in conjunction with the   
 student and school administration.

\*\*\*Write ABSENT at the top of the page *and* the letter day(s) you were gone\*\*\*

**BYOD Policy:**

\* School policies regarding devices will be enforced. Therefore, a laptop/tablet is allowed in

class, but might not be utilized during every class meeting.  The school laptops in the   
 classroom are distributed on a first-come first- serve basis.

\* BYODevices are not for student-student communication; notes, homework, and research only.  
\* Phones should NOT be on student desks.

**Miscellaneous:**

\* No purses of bags will be allowed on the desk tops during class or open labs.

\* Keep a folder with all old papers, including the Syllabus. This is helpful for exam prep, for reference,

and for resolving any questions related to the course grade.