**Eighth Grade US History**

Mr. Warnstedt

Term: 2021-2022 school year (three trimesters)

Email: jwarnstedt@visitationschool.org

Office Hours: 3:00-3:30 Tuesday, Wednesday or by appointment

**Course Description: US History: Precolonial to Civil Rights**

The purpose of this course is to research, analyze, and understand key concepts that took place throughout United States History. The course begins with early humans migrating over the land bridge and settling across America. We then discuss Age of Exploration, European influences, and the beginning of colonization. We dive into the French and Indian War and the causes and effects that lead to the American Revolution and the birth of the United States. The course then dives into the creation of the Constitution and analyze part of this important document. This course continues on by covering all the events leading up to the Civil War, covering the Civil War itself, and eventually the last casualty of the war, President Lincoln’s assassination. We cover the Reconstruction’s success and failures will then be analyzed at some length. The “Reconstruction Amendments” (the Thirteen, Fourteen, And Fifteen Amendments) will be examined and discussed in great depth. After the Reconstruction, the course turns to the United States’ growth through industrialization, immigration, and Imperialism in the late 1800s. These three factors will be covered in great depth because they propelled the United States towards the twentieth century. The course then moves on to cover World War I, the Roaring Twenties, Woman’s Suffrage, and the Great Depression. World War II will be covered in great depth, along with all events leading up to it. The course will end in the Cold War era, covering topics like the Korean War, the Vietnam War along with others. Lastly, throughout the course students will be learning about current events and watching the news on CNN 10.

**Textbook and Supplemental Materials**

Please make sure the textbook is covered as instructed in the supply list. Additionally, please don’t write in the textbook. If there is any abuse, damage, or the textbook is lost, the book will be **replaced at the student/parent’s expense.** Any supplemental books are yours and does not need to be covered. Additionally, if any supplement books are required advanced notice for them will be given. However, your name **must** be present in it and notes will be taken in the book.

Course textbook:

* American History: myWorld

**Approximate grading percentage**

Tests: 25%

Essays: 25%

Projects: 25%

Homework/Classwork: 15%

Participation: 10%

**Technology:**

Technology and the use of technology is a key component to education. Therefore, the use of Chromebook, Google classroom, and other electric resources will be used or provided throughout the class. However, using such resources, like Chromebooks is a privilege and if that privilege is abused the use of them will be taken away.

**Assessments**

To properly assess the student’s comprehension of each unit and to gage the success of each lesson, assessments will be given every unit. However, the style of the assessment will vary depending on what assessment will properly challenge the students to their highest potential. Nevertheless, each assessment will be beneficial to student success and access student creativity.

1. **Test**
	1. Tests formats will vary; however, they will comprise of some multiple choice, short answers, and or an essay.
	2. Tests will take place after completion of a unit and students will be given advanced notification of when the exam will take place.
	3. Students will be required to create a study guide to help them prepare for the exam and it will be collected prior to taking the test. Additionally, during class time the day before the exam, class will be dedicated to reviewing for the exam.
	4. Make up tests can be arranged with Mr. Warnstedt at his convenience and will take place during afterschool office hours. Make up exams must be completed no later than a week after returning to school.
2. **Essays**
	1. Essay lengths will vary depending on the topic. Grading of these essays will be based off of rubrics.
	2. Students will be given ample amount of class time to research, collect resources, write rough drafts, and peer review.
	3. Final copies must be typed in Times New Roman 12 font and due dates will be given way in advance.
	4. Essays turned in late will be accepted but, will only receive half credit.
	5. Students who are absent on the due date will be given one day after returning to turn in the final copy.
	6. Emailing Mr. Warnstedt, the final copy will only be accepted if given approval. All final copies, along with other materials must be turned in during class.
3. **Projects**
	1. The details of the project will vary based on each topic. Grading will be based off of rubrics.
	2. Depending on the project students will either work in groups or individually.
	3. Students will be given time in class to research and complete their projects. Additionally, due dates for each project will be given in advance.
	4. Projects turned in late will be accepted but, will only receive half credit.
	5. Students who are absent on the due date will be given one day after returning to turn in their final project.

**Homework/Classwork**

Every class session will comprise of reading, note taking, discussions, and assignments that will be done during class. Students will be given ample amount of time in class to complete all assignments. However, if something is not completed by the end of class, it is the student’s responsibility to finish the work at home. Additionally, there will be no added homework. Students will be informed of all the required work for each lesson at the beginning of class. Every assignment will then be collected the next day for grading, unless stated differently by Mr. Warnstedt. Any homework/classwork that is turned in late will be accepted but, will only receive half credit. Students who are absent on the due date of any assignment, will be given one day after returning to school to hand in their homework for full credit. Furthermore, there will be no extra credit assigned for this class.

**General Information**

Refer to the student handbook for all Disciplinary rules and regulations. Additionally, look to the student handbook for all attendance policies and tardy regulations. Lastly, refer to the student handbook for all student uniform expectations.