

8<sup>th</sup> Grade US History Advanced  
Mr. Brian Sutliff  
Syllabus  
2011-2012



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“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.”

[Abraham Lincoln](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our US History Advanced classroom and share my expectations for the class. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any problems, questions, or concerns. I am always willing to meet with students and parents.

I have very high expectations for all students, particularly in this Advanced class, and will expect you to do your best at all times. This class is designed to prepare students for the accelerated and rigorous coursework associated with the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) programs. Tests, Document-Based Questions (DBQs), written essays and other assessments will be structured accordingly.

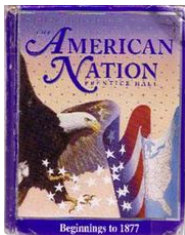
We will begin our studies with a review of the Civil War and continue all the way through the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. We will also participate in History Fair and take field trips this year, including a visit to the Florida Holocaust Museum. Additionally, we will be researching careers and preparing for high school. This year will be challenging and intellectually stimulating, so be prepared to work hard, put forth your best effort every day and have fun.

I am requiring that both students and parents read the syllabus, sign and return the last page of this letter indicating that you have read the procedures and agree to cooperate with them.

Welcome to US History Advanced. I look forward to an engaging and exciting year with you.

Mr. Sutliff  
BrianSutliff@ssas.org

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**TEXT:**

*The American Nation* (Prentice Hall): Each student will have a book checked out to him or her during the first weeks of school. The book is to be taken home for the duration of the school year. Each student is responsible for the book checked out to him/her. Books will be returned during the last week of the school year. There is a cost to replace lost books. The school will also provide a class set of books for use in the classroom.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** *Students must have all required materials by Wednesday.*

- 🌐 Notebook Paper (College Rule)
- 🌐 Blue/Black Ink Pens
- 🌐 Pencils
- 🌐 Box of Colored Pencils

**ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED MATERIALS: (NOT REQUIRED)**

- 🌐 Small notebook size atlas (US and World)
- 🌐 Highlighter

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND RULES:**

In order to meet the goals for US History, it is important that we maintain a healthy and productive learning environment. To do that we need to be respectful of different ideas, values, and cultures. Most importantly, we need to be respectful of each other. Your grade will reflect your respectfulness and following of the rules. The rules are as follows:

- 1) STUDENTS NEED TO ARRIVE ON TIME TO CLASS, TAKE THEIR SEATS QUIETLY, AND BEGIN BELLWORK IMMEDIATELY.
- 2) STUDENTS MUST BE PREPARED TO BEGIN CLASS AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE.
- 3) IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO TURN IN AN ASSIGNMENT, THE ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE TURNED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.
- 4) STUDENTS NEED TO BRING THEIR REQUIRED MATERIALS WITH THEM TO CLASS EVERY DAY.
- 5) STUDENTS MUST LISTEN TO THE DIRECTIONS FROM THE TEACHER. IF A STUDENT WISHES TO SPEAK, HE/SHE MUST FIRST BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE TEACHER TO SPEAK DURING CLASS.
- 6) RESPECT EACH OTHER, EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS, AND EACH OTHER'S PROPERTY.

**ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES**

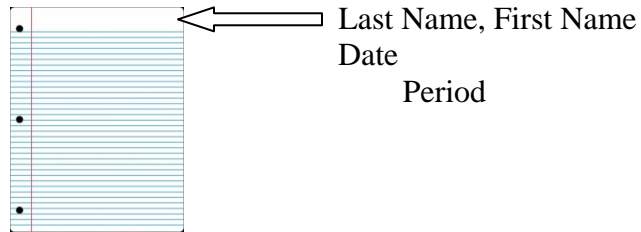
**“Give Me Five”**

- a. Eyes on speaker
- b. Quiet
- c. Be still
- d. Hands free (put things down)
- e. Listen

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

All assignments and homework will be posted with a due date on the board at the front of the classroom. Students are responsible for checking this board daily and writing assignments in their agenda book. Students are expected to turn in completed assignments on the date they are due. All in-class assignments must be completed in pencil or BLUE/BLACK ink. Assignments should be completed with care. Work that is sloppy and unreadable (due to handwriting, etc.) will lose points or not be accepted. Assignments must have a consistent heading – Last Name, First Name, Date, Period in the upper right hand corner:

After the first week of school papers without the proper heading may lose 10 points.



### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments that are turned in after the beginning of the class on the due date will be penalized 10% per day late. Any assignments that are more than 3 days late will be accepted for no more than 50% credit.

### **PROJECTS/PAPERS**

One major project and/or paper will be assigned each quarter. Students will have limited time in class to work on these assignments; at times, therefore, it will be necessary for students to work on projects and papers outside of class. Guidelines and expectations for projects and papers will be given in class. Computer access is NOT required to complete assignments. It is suggested and preferred, however, that students type papers if possible. Students should expect to gather information from the Internet, text and print sources and/or the public library system outside of class.

### **TESTS/QUIZZES**

Quizzes may be announced or unannounced (pop quizzes).  
Tests will always be announced.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

On the rare occasion that Extra Credit is offered, it is extended to all students. I will provide the criteria and details for acceptable Extra Credit assignments. Extra Credit must be turned in by the due date given. It is NOT accepted late – NO EXCEPTIONS! Do not rely on extra credit to improve your grade; complete the assignments you are given on time, do them well and you will succeed in this course.

## **GRADING**

In order to be successful in US History Advanced, you need to be prepared to learn and participate every day. Bring all necessary materials to class and be alert. Preparedness and your willingness to participate are vital to your success.

***Your grade each quarter will be based on the following school wide grading policies:***

- 🌐 Tests & Major Projects- 35%
- 🌐 Quizzes – 30%
- 🌐 Classwork & Homework – 30%
- 🌐 Bellwork – 5%

## **BATHROOM:**

Students should use the restroom before or after class EXCEPT for emergencies. If a bathroom pass is needed, the student must fill out his/her Agenda and bring it to the teacher. If the student does not have his/her agenda, they may use the bathroom but will receive a detention.

## **TARDIES:**

Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats and on task when the bell rings. Three tardies in one quarter will result in a detention. Students who are tardy to class are responsible for making up any missed class work; they also need to enter the classroom quietly so as not to disrupt the educational process.

## **IF YOU ARE ABSENT:**

You are responsible for any make-up work. You have the same number of days you were absent to make up work. Ex. 2 days absent = 2 days to make up. ***It is your responsibility to check the Assignment Binder and/or ask the teacher immediately before or after class to see what you missed.*** Assignments are also posted at least once per week on Edline. Do not ask about make-up work during class. **All major assignments/projects that are assigned at least 2 weeks in advance MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE DUE DATE EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT THAT DAY!!!** If you know you are going to be absent, you must turn the project/assignment in EARLY.

## **CHEATING POLICY**

Cheating, plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. In this class, cheating is defined as: turning in or copying another student's work as your own, providing others with test questions, providing answers to other students on assignments or tests, and using another person's work for an assignment, project, or paper without giving them credit. Plagiarism involves the student not citing his/her sources for a paper/project/presentation, thereby claiming that the information is an original contribution. Consequences for cheating will follow the discipline plan. Additionally, students will not receive credit for the assignment.

## **EDLINE**

Assignment and Grade updates are posted weekly to Edline and should be viewed by both students and parents. Announcements concerning projects, field trips, and other important dates are also posted. Additionally, Edline is used to email students and parents important announcements. Please make sure your Edline login information is current.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

### **Consequences for breaking any rule or procedure:**

- First Offense:** Visual (The Look) or Verbal Warning  
**Second Offense:** Write classroom and rules and parent notification  
**Third Offense:** Behavior essay with signature from parent(s)  
**Fourth Offense:** In school morning detention  
**Fifth Offense:** County Referral (one or more days out of school suspension)

*Student or parent refusal for student to write classroom rules or behavior essay, and also a refusal to do a morning detention will be considered as a fifth offense.*

The teacher reserves the right to move to the consequences of a third or fourth offense when student behavior warrants doing so.

A parent conference will be requested if a student continually struggles with following classroom expectations and procedures.

**All zero tolerance issues will be sent to the Administration immediately!**

### **Rewards:**

- 🌐 Verbal praise from the teacher
- 🌐 The satisfaction of a job well done
- 🌐 Positive notes home

## **COURSE THEMES AND COMMON THREADS**

Throughout the year, we will incorporate the following themes into our studies. We will also engage in various interdisciplinary activities.

- 🌐 the United States as a multi-cultural nation – the many faces of history
- 🌐 the spirit of democracy – a republic with key elements of democracy
- 🌐 the changing economy – the lessons of economics
- 🌐 the environment – our land and resources
- 🌐 global interdependence – links across the world

**Topics Covered:**

**\*\*\*subject to change\*\*\***

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>First Quarter</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>🌐 Review of Civil War</li><li>🌐 Reconstruction</li><li>🌐 Frontier West (1865 – 1914)</li><li>🌐 Rise of Industry</li></ul> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Third Quarter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>🌐 The Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age</li><li>🌐 The Great Depression</li><li>🌐 World War II</li></ul>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Second Quarter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>🌐 Immigration</li><li>🌐 Politics and Social reform (1870 – 1914)</li><li>🌐 Overseas expansion</li><li>🌐 World War I</li></ul>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fourth Quarter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>🌐 Tolerance and Diversity</li><li>🌐 The Holocaust</li><li>🌐 The Cold War Era</li><li>🌐 Post-War Years at Home</li><li>🌐 Vietnam War</li><li>🌐 Civil Rights Movement</li></ul> |

**History Fair:**

This year we will be participating in a school and/or county History Fair with the papers and projects being due in early March. Directions and topics will be disseminated in class.

**Career Preparation:**

A key component to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies will be Career and Workplace Planning. Students will learn about skills necessary for success in planning for their future in high school and beyond. They will be required to keep a Career Planning Portfolio, complete a career interest survey, and develop an ePEP. Ms. Leader will be assisting us with this aspect of the curriculum. Please read Team News and Edline for updates! Career Planning activities will be offered throughout the school year.

I look forward to an engaging and exciting year with all of you.

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STUDENT NAME AND PERIOD (Please Print)

Please fill out this page and turn it in by Wednesday August 24, 2011.  
If you have any additional questions and/or concerns, please note them on this sheet.  
I look forward to an exciting year with all of you!

I have read Mr. Sutliff's syllabus, including rules and expectations. I agree to cooperate with them and understand that if I choose to break a rule, there will be consequences.

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Student

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Date

I have read Mr. Sutliff's syllabus, including rules and expectations and agree to support them.

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Parent Name

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Phone

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Email

Please indicate below if you do not have internet access.

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