

US History
Grade 8
Sarasota School of Arts and
Sciences

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“American history is longer, larger,
more various, more beautiful, and
more terrible than anything anyone
has ever said about it.”

- James Baldwin

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COURSE SYLLABUS

2011-2012 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. I hope you had a restful summer vacation. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to my class and to provide you with an outline of expectations and class procedures. If you have any questions/concerns, please let me know promptly. You will find my contact information in the upper left hand corner of this page. The best way to contact me is via email. Phone calls and emails are generally returned within 24 hours (excluding weekends and school holidays).

Students, I will provide you with the tools necessary to succeed. It will be your job to make good use of these tools.

Course objectives for students include:

- develop a strong understanding and appreciation of United States history
- see how United States history fits into the larger scope of world history
- understand how United States history influences life today
- recognize connections between United States history and other disciplines
- build a solid Social Studies and academic vocabulary
- develop thinking skills that support the ability to challenge assumptions, think creatively, and solve real-life problems
- have fun while learning.

Parents/Guardians, I would appreciate your help in furthering these goals. Simply encouraging your child as he or she explores United States history will go a long way! Thank you for being an important part of your child's learning experience this year. I am requiring that both students and parents read the syllabus and sign and return the last page of this letter indicating that you have read the procedures and agree to cooperate with them. Please keep a copy of this syllabus in your student folder for future reference. Additional copies may be obtained through the school website and on Edline.

I am looking forward to a great year!
Sincerely,

Sarah Shepherd

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Blue / Black ink pens (other colors will NOT be accepted for assignments)

#2 Pencils

Spiral Notebook

Folder (with pockets and prongs)

TEXT

The American Nation (Prentice Hall): Each student will have a copy of this textbook checked out to them to be taken home for the duration of the school year. Students are responsible for the cost of lost/damaged books.

CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Respect others
2. Be prepared for class
3. Follow all teacher instructions immediately
4. Raise your hand to speak
5. Follow all school and classroom procedures

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

- Students are expected to be in their seats silently working by the time the bell rings.
- Students will hand in assignments to the wall bins and clear their desks of all materials not required for History class before the bell rings.
- Students will remain on task and will follow all rules, procedures, and teacher instructions for the duration of class.
- The classroom will be clean and orderly before students are permitted to leave.
- The teacher will dismiss students, not the bell.

Tardies: A student will be marked tardy if they are not in their seat working by the time the bell rings. Three tardies will result in a detention.

Restroom: Students should use the restroom before or after class, unless in the case of an emergency. If a restroom pass is needed during class, students must fill out a pass in their Agenda and bring it to the teacher quietly. There is no need to raise your hand and ask permission for a pass. Excessive requests to use the restroom during class will be followed up with a phone call home.

“Give Me Five” will be utilized when the teacher needs the immediate attention of all students.

1. Eyes on the Speaker
2. Quiet
3. Be Still
4. Hands Free (put things down)
5. Listen

GRADES

Grades are calculated using the following formula:

- 35% Tests (projects)
- 30% Quizzes
- 30% Homework / Classwork
- 5% Bellwork

ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments are posted on the board with corresponding due dates. Students are required to track all assignments in their Agenda Books, which should aid in planning and time management.

All assignments should be completed with care and quality. Assignments are to be completed on loose leaf paper using a *blue/black ink pen*, unless otherwise noted.

Assignments must be labeled (page number, etc.) and have the required heading in the upper right hand corner of the paper:

Name (last name, first name)

Date

Class Period

HOMEWORK:

Homework is given on a limited basis every week. Students do not generally have time to complete homework in class.

PROJECTS / PAPERS:

Major projects and/or papers will be assigned throughout the year. Students will have limited time in class to complete these assignments. Therefore, it will be necessary for students to work on these assignments outside of class. Guidelines and expectations for all projects and papers will be given in class. Computer access is not required to complete these activities. Students should expect to utilize both the Internet and public library system to gather research. Projects and Papers will count as test grades.

TESTS / QUIZZES

Tests will always be announced in class. Students must have a #2 pencil and eraser on test days.

Quizzes may be announced or unannounced (pop quizzes).

During the last quarter of the year, students will be required to take a cumulative final exam.

MAKE-UP WORK

If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to obtain work from the teacher. Work assigned during a student's excused absence should be made up within a length of time equal to the length of the excused absence. For example, if a student is absent 2 days, he/she will have 2 days to complete work. Assignments given before an absence occurs are expected to be turned in upon the day of return.

LATE WORK POLICY:

All assignments are given a due date. It is expected that all students complete and hand in assignments at the beginning of class on the given due date.

Late papers will lose 10 points per day late. After 3 days, papers will not be accepted for credit.

FOLDERS

Students are expected to keep ALL assignments organized in a folder with pockets and prongs. This will serve as a portfolio of work that will assist in the completion of tests, quizzes, and projects. Folders should be brought to every class period.

WALL BINS:

All assignments to be turned in should be placed into the appropriate wall bin before the bell rings.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is usually not given. Students should focus on completing given assignments on time with quality and care.

EDLINE:

It is the responsibility of parents and students to monitor grades on a regular basis. Grades are updated to Edline at least once a week (usually on Friday afternoon). Edline grades are current at the time they are posted. Grades for late work / make-up work may not be immediately available on Edline. Edline is the teacher's primary line of communication to parents regarding academic progress. Therefore, it is imperative that students and parents check Edline on a consistent basis and forward any questions and/or access issues to the teacher promptly.

CHEATING POLICY (as stated in the SSA+S student handbook):

SSA+S has a no tolerance policy regarding cheating. Students found exhibiting behaviors commonly associated with cheating will be subject to discipline. Those behaviors include talking during a test, plagiarism, copying answers or being in possession of answers for assignments, or giving answers for assignments to another student (this is not all-inclusive). Additionally, students involved in cheating will receive a ZERO grade for the assignment, and the classroom teacher will notify the parent/guardian and assign a detention to the student. Second offense, the student will receive a ZERO grade, parent will be notified and student will receive a suspension.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER:

In the event that there is a substitute teacher, students are expected to follow all class rules and procedures as usual. All work assigned will be collected by the substitute and graded upon the teacher's return to school. Assignments given in class with a substitute will count as a double grade.

DISCIPLINE POLICY:

When as student violates a class rule, the following consequences will be served.

1. Verbal Warning or Acknowledgement (A look or tap on the desk)
2. Class rules writing assignment
3. Behavioral Essay
4. Detention
5. County Referral (Suspension from school)

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.

If an offense at the discretion of the teacher, is severe enough the first two steps can be omitted resulting in the third step, as long as a phone call from the teacher accompanies this action of discipline.

Rewards:

- Praise/ Smiles from your teacher
- The satisfaction of a job well done
- Positive Notes home
- Stickers

COURSE TOPICS BY QUARTER

* subject to change

<p>Quarter 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil War Review • Reconstruction • The Frontier West • The Rise of Industry 	<p>Quarter 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1920s • The Great Depression • World War II
<p>Quarter 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration at the Turn of the Century • Political and Social Reform • Overseas Expansion • World War I 	<p>Quarter 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holocaust • Genocide • The Cold War Era • The Civil Rights Movement • The Vietnam War

Career Education:

Students will also complete a unit in Career Education this year, as required by the Florida Department of Education.

I am looking forward to a great year with all of you. The last page must be completed and returned by Friday of this week.

Please fill out this page and turn it in by Friday of this week.
If you have any additional questions and/or concerns, please note them on this sheet.

STUDENT NAME AND CLASS PERIOD (Please Print!)

I have e read Ms. Shepherd'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.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

I have read and understand Ms. Shepherd's syllabus and agree to support class policies.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (Please Print!)

DATE

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

Additional questions/concerns: