

7th Grade American History

Mr. Bliss

TrevorBliss@ssas.org

(941)330-1855 ext. 111

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

-- Preamble of the
Constitution of the United
States of America

Welcome to 7th grade American History with Mr. Bliss. This year, we will examine the constructs of the United States, the developments of its people, and the evolution of its government through history. Topics of study will encompass both distinguishing and controversial moments in American history that explain the development of current practices in the United States today.

Class Materials

2 Pencils

2 Pens

1 Folder used only for history

Grading

Grading will consist of the following assessments: Classwork, Homework, Bellwork, Quizzes, and Tests. Classwork will be assigned almost daily and worth 15% of the student's grade; **any classwork that is missed due to absence must be made up and will be scored as incomplete until finished. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work was missed when absent and complete it.** Students will have one day to make up work for every day he or she was absent.

Homework is will be assigned seldom, often no more than 1 night a week. Homework will exercise critical thinking that **needs to be completed at home of the assigned night.** Homework is worth 15% of the students' which is not devastating, but missing the important concepts is. Many quizzes and tests will include material that was assigned as homework. Be sure to be diligent and consistent when completing homework.

Quizzes will be worth 30% and will be fairly frequent. Expect one or two quizzes per chapter. Any quizzes that are missed on the day of an absence must be made up the next day the student is in attendance. Students should review at home for a quiz but should be fairly prepared by attending class and completing homework.

Tests will be worth 35% of the students' grade. Tests will be given at the end of a unit and at the end of a quarter. Tests will be longer and more difficult than the quizzes. Tests will assess critical thinking skills as well as historical facts and references learned in class. Students should review at home at least two days before the day of the test.

Bellwork is the assignment students begin when they enter the classroom and is worth 5% of the student's grade. Class starts when they enter the room, not when the bell rings. Students will have approximately 3-5 minutes after the bell to complete their bellwork assignment.

Class rules

- 1.) Respect Mr. Bliss, others, and others' stuff. (this includes school property)
- 2.) Raise your hand in order to be called on to speak.
- 3.) Be prepared to learn everyday. (This includes having a positive attitude and all materials)
- 4.) Always follow the proper classroom procedures

Student Expectations

I hold all students to the same expectations every day whether with me or a substitute.

- 1.) Always be on your best behavior acting with the utmost respect for everyone and everything.
- 2.) Always give class assignments your best efforts.
- 3.) Do not argue with other students or teachers.
- 4.) Attitude is everything. Make sure yours is positive before entering class.

Tentative Course Schedule

First Quarter – Chapters 3-6 which will cover European discovery to the beginning of the American Revolution

Second Quarter – Chapters 6-9 which covers the American Revolution to Jefferson

Third Quarter – Chapters 10-13 which covers Westward Expansion, Jackson, and discrepancies between the North and the South.

Fourth Quarter – Chapters 15-16 which covers the causes of the Civil War to the end of the Civil War.

In addition to the curriculum of American History, we will also study geography of the U.S., examine primary sources, and study current events.

Tips for success

- 1.) Be at school. Make up work can be overwhelming when many days are missed, not to mention learning the lessons missed.
- 2.) Work hard in and out of class. Your teachers hold high expectations and your future bosses will hold even higher expectations. It is important that you learn to work hard now.
- 3.) Take advantage of extra help. If someone is willing to help you at school or at home, take the opportunity for extra practice and help.
- 4.) Do not procrastinate to complete assignments. Begin working on assignments when they are assigned. Other assignments or tests may be assigned in other classes which can lead to an overwhelming amount of work.

Discipline Plan

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

- 1.) The look
- 2.) Class rules writing assignment
- 3.) Behavior 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.

Students are not permitted to “tell” the teacher how the discipline plan should be administered.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I will respond within 24 hours.

I have read and understand the syllabus.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____