American History II Course Syllabus

Instructor: Marc Sprintz

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Website: <http://sprintz.weebly.com/> Tutoring: Plus Lunch Wed./Fri.

**Course Description**

American History Course II will guide students from the late nineteenth century time period through the early 21st century. Students will examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction era to present times. The essential standards of American History Course II will trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movement toward equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. An emphasis is placed on the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts as well as the continuing tension between the individual and the state. The desired outcome of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the cause-and-effect relationship between past and present events, recognize patterns of interactions, and understand the impact of events on in the United States in an interconnected world.

**Course Outline**

The course consists of major units including: The American West, Industrialization & Urbanization, The Gilded Age & Progressive Era, Imperialism & WWI, Roaring 20s, Great Depression & New Deal, WWII & Cold War, Recovery, Prosperity, & Turmoil, and the US since Vietnam. Students will also be taught strategies to help them succeed on the American History II Final Exam which is administered in June.

**Textbook & Readings**

A variety of materials will be used for this course, though the main text is Danzer, et al. The Americans. (2008) There will be a classroom set of textbooks that you can use in class. If you would like to check out a book to keep at home, you may do so. **Lost or damaged textbooks will result in an $85 fine** at the end of the semester.

**Grading**

All work is evaluated using a weighted point system. Informal assessments including most homework, classwork, maps, and pop quizzes will account for 30% of your quarter grade. Formal assessments including unit tests, major projects, and announced quizzes will account for 70% of your quarter grade.

Each quarter will account for 40% of the final grade. The other 20% of the final grade is made up of the student’s score on a state-generated cumulative exam (NCFE). Per Orange County Schools, the final exam must comprise 20% of students’ grade. Typically, each 4-5 weeks, students will be responsible for 5-6 text chapters plus related in-class activities, critical thinking-based writing assignments, 3-5 tests that include a writing component, and projects.

We will be following the Orange County Public Schools grading scale:

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 59% and under

**Required Materials**:

* Fully charged laptop
* Three ring binder (3 inch) with pockets and loose-leaf paper
* At least 10 file separators for the binder
* 5 colored highlighters, pens (blue, black, and red), pencils, colored pencils
* Glue sticks
* **box of tissues & bottle of anti-bacterial gel (THESE ARE REQUESTED)**

**Tests/Quizzes:**

Tests and most quizzes will be announced in advance of the day they are given. In the event that a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, a make-up test/quiz may be administered in an alternate format. **It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me for all make-up work in advance of a planned absence or your first day after an unplanned absence. You will be expected to make up a missed test or quiz during the first PLUS Lunch I am available after you return from absence.**

**Late Work**

Assignments are expected to be turned in **at the beginning of class on the due date assigned**. If you turn in work after the start of class, it will be considered a day late.

**THE LAST DAY I WILL ACCEPT LATE WORK FOR EACH UNIT IS THE DAY OF THE UNIT TEST.**

**Also, some assignments will not be accepted late for any credit (e.g. if we go over the answers in class on the due date of the assignment, you won't get credit for writing down answers we go over in class)**

*The above policy does not apply to students who have excused absences on the day an assignment is due. Typically, students who are absent have the same number of days to complete an assignment as they were absent.*

**Academic Integrity**

Any copying or cheating from peers or other sources will not be tolerated. **Unless I specifically tell you that you may work with another person, you are expected to complete work on your own. Handing in identical work or nearly identical work & using the excuse ‘we worked together’ does not fly with me. If you need help on an assignment, email me or stop by and I can help you.** Copying and pasting definitions from the Internet and submitting them as your key terms definitions is also a violation of this policy. Copying or sharing answers with other students from EdPuzzle is a violation of this policy. **Cheating will result in a ZERO on the assignment for ALL students involved** in the cheating event. There will also be a **parent contact**, **administrative referral** from you which you may receive additional consequences. I take academic integrity extremely seriously. Consider this your first and only warning.

**PLUS Lunch:**

If your grades dip into the D and F range, you will be required to attend PLUS Lunch tutoring.

**Ground Rules**

* You are seated and ready when the bell rings.
* School Tardy Policy:

1st Tardy: Warning 2nd Tardy: Parent/Guardian Contact 3rd + Tardy: Discipline Referral

* Listen first – respond second.
* Be RESPECTFUL of yourself and others. This includes not talking over me OR other students when they are talking. It also includes not sleeping or having your head down in class.
* Turn your cell phone **OFF and leave it in your book bag during class time unless I specifically tell you that you can have your phone out.** We will follow the OHS cell phone policy as explained in the Student Code of Conduct. **If your phone becomes a distraction, I will confiscate it until the end of the class period.**
* Attending class daily AND on time is important to your academic success. If you aren’t in class by the tardy bell, go directly to an administrator to get a late pass.
* You have an hour for lunch BEFORE this class, so you do not need to bring your lunch into class; this room has had recent insect infestations, so NO FOOD in class!
* No ear buds/headphones during class **unless** you are specifically told you can use them. They should be completely out of sight during class. If I allow you to listen to music when working on assignments, consider this a privilege. If you fail to complete your assignments, or are distracted, this privilege will be revoked.
* Dress code is the same in class as it is for OHS.
* After using a textbook, return it to the book shelf where you found it and be sure that the books are left in a neat stack. **DO NOT** **leave books under the desks EVER**!
* After using any other supplies that you borrow from Mr. Sprintz, return them to where you found them before you leave the class.
* **If you need to leave the class for the bathroom or anywhere else, you need to take a pass with you. No one may leave the class for the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of class.** If you ask to leave for the bathroom every day or disappear for an extended period of time, your bathroom privilege will be revoked.
* I do bell-to-bell instruction. So, **do not pack up your bags until I indicate class is over and DEFINITELY do not hover around the door before the bell rings. If you hover around the door before class ends, expect that the class will held inside the classroom after the bell rings.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(include nickname/name you go by if different from given name)

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| **Student/Parent Acknowledgement of Syllabus & Rules** | **American History II** |
| **Mr. Sprintz** |

**After reading the syllabus and ground rules, please read the statements by the boxes below. Student AND parent should INITIAL next to each of the boxes, and SIGN below to indicate that you have read and understand the information in the syllabus:**

* ***I have read and understand the syllabus, policies, and student expectations for this class, including the grading policy and ground rules.***
* ***I also understand the academic integrity policy. It is clear that the plagiarism policy will be vigorously enforced even though my child may normally be an exceptional student or exhibit exemplary character on most occasions.***

**Student's Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent's Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Who was your teacher for American History 1?
2. What do you think is the most historic event that has happened in your lifetime (**that you have a memory of**)?
3. Who do you think is the most influential person in U.S. history and what makes you say so?
4. What is ‘The American Dream’ and, as you understand it, do you think it is reachable for all Americans? Explain your answer.
5. What is the farthest place you have been from Hillsborough in the United States? If you have been outside of the U.S., where have you traveled?
6. Where do you go to learn about the news? Social media sites? News sites? Newspapers? Other?