

American History Syllabus

Teacher: Mr. Buckley

Room: 2A

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Website: <http://nsaabuckley.weebly.com>

Office Hours: Before School- 7:30-8:50 daily by appointment

Lunch- by appointment only

After School- Monday-Friday after 3:15

Course Objectives: Welcome to American History! A study of American History is integral to analyze our national experience through time, to recognize the relationships of events and people, and to interpret significant patterns, themes, ideas, beliefs, and turning points in American history. Students should be able to apply the lessons of American History to their lives as citizens of the United States.

By the end of this year, you will:

- Demonstrate and strengthen your ability to write formal essays/papers.
- Strengthen your note-taking skills.
- Compare/contrast/synthesize and analyze information.
- Exercise critical thinking and communication skills in formal and informal discussions.

Textbook: Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, Brief 4th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014

You need the following in class each day:

Blue or Black ink pens and pencils.

Lined paper.

One ½-1" three ring binder/Folder space in a larger binder specifically dedicated to this course and this course alone!

Optional but recommended

3x5 Lined note cards.

Highlighters

Markers or colored pencils.

Course Content: American History moves quickly and covers a large amount of material. Therefore, it is important not only that students keep pace with the course, but also ask questions and seek additional help when needed. Mr. Buckley is willing to meet with students after school with requested appointments or during office hours. The following are the most common activities that will be performed in this class.

CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK: In this class, there is not a distinction between homework and classwork in terms of grading. Most material will be started and possibly finished in class, but assignments not finished in class will become homework. All students work at differing paces, but it is necessary to use class time effectively or you will have homework after every class.

BINDER CHECKS/NOTES: Notes are given in the cloze format, where some information is provided and selected content is omitted. This allows the course to move quickly and to begin training students to look for key terms and ideas in longer texts.

Notes will not be collected but it is your responsibility to keep track of them in your binder. Binders will be checked for a grade at least once per quarter. This will happen randomly, which is why you must bring your binder every day. Points will be lost if binders/notes are incomplete, missing, or no binder is presented. Studying for a test or quiz will also be difficult if notes are not kept organized and updated.

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS/DBQs: Most document analysis assignments will consist of short readings of primary and secondary sources with critical thinking questions. There will also be at least one longer DBQ per unit. DBQs will consist of many primary or secondary sources and will also require you to answer a central question in an essay format. The objective of these assignments is to give to practice comparing, contrasting, synthesizing, and analyzing information. These types of assignments allow for a deeper discussion of historical figures, themes, and events.

TESTS/QUIZZES: There will be at least one test per quarter depending upon the material covered. Study guides will be provided before a test is given, but not before quizzes. Study guides are meant to guide your review of material, not teach the material. Your notes and binder will be the best resource for studying. Tests will usually consist of a multiple choice and short answer portion.

ACADEMIC READING/WRITING: NSAA uses MLA format for academic papers to align with English/Language Arts curriculum. This writing format will be reviewed as needed and can be referenced at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resources/747/01/>. NSAA uses a writing rubric based upon Arizona College and Career Ready Standards that is posted on the webpage and will be given to students with formal writing assignments.

ARIZONA CITIZENSHIP EXAM: Arizona requires that students be able to pass the United States citizenship test. This test will include all 100 questions on the U.S. citizenship test and will be mostly multiple-choice. This test will cover material across all Arizona social studies standards. To meet the graduation requirement students will have to earn at least a 60% on the test and the test will be administered in several social studies classes throughout middle and high school. This will serve as our benchmark test for this class and will be taken in August and again in December. Any passing score will satisfy the graduation requirement but you must still take the test twice.

Course Policies: Course policies are the rules and guidelines our class follows, in addition to those established by New School for the Arts and Academics (All NSAA rules and expectations are enforced in Mr. Buckley's classroom). These policies are consistently enforced throughout the school year and distributed in the student handbook at the beginning of each year. Each student is expected to know, understand and follow these policies. If you feel class or school policies need clarification speak with Mr. Buckley or an administrator directly.

ATTENDANCE: Prompt daily attendance is expected. All students must be seated in the classroom and prepared to learn when the class begins! Each tardy or unprepared class will cost you academic points and negatively influence your grade. Additionally, if a student is aware of up-coming absences, it is their responsibility to inform me before the absences and receive work that might be missed. **Any student who accumulates three or more tardies or unexcused absences in the same class in one month will be required to recover instructional minutes on the last Saturday of each month. Saturday attendance will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Failure to attend Saturday recovery hours may result in a schedule change.** A friend in class is helpful to collect materials and information if you are absent. Lecture notes are also provided on the class website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are a member of a community of learners. For any community to thrive, certain concepts must be embraced. In our community, I expect the following general behavior of all students.

RESPECT: All students will respect themselves, their community members and their learning environment.

READINESS: All students must attend class every day and ready to actively participate in daily activities.

RESPONSIBILITY: All students must accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Active participation and preparedness is expected at all times! Failure to adhere to these policies will result in lost academic points and will have a negative impact on your grade.

DUE DATES: All assignments must be completed on the scheduled due date. Work can often be completed by the end of class, but occasionally you will have a specific homework assignment or simply were unable to complete an assignment in class. Work will always be due the class meeting following it being assigned unless otherwise noted. Assignments are turned in at the beginning of the class period and it is your responsibility to turn in your work. **ALL LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE ACCEPTED WITH 25% POINTS DEDUCTED FOR ONE WEEK AFTER THE DUE DATE AND NO LATER.** This is the late work policy unless an individual accommodation states otherwise. Technical difficulties and "I sent it!" will not constitute an excuse for late work. Extensions may be given on an individual basis, but it must be agreed to before the due date. I may deny an extension, at my discretion.

ABSENCES: Do your best not be absent, excused or otherwise. The pace of this course means that missing class can put you behind very quickly. You are required to make up missed assignments or notes regardless of the reason class was missed. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to find out what was done while you were absent. This information will be accessible to you in the room. Notes and PowerPoints will be available to you on the website. I will not remind you to perform this responsibility, nor will I stop class when you ask what was missed. Get notes you missed from another person or the website, ask someone if an assignment was missed, then check the assignment board to retrieve your work.

If your absence is excused with me or the front office, you will not lose professionalism points. If your absence is unexcused, then you will lose all daily professionalism points and missing work will be regarded as late. If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz you must make arrangements to make it up **ON YOUR TIME WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE TEST DATE**. Extended absences will be treated on a case-by-case basis.

Regardless of the nature of your absence you will not be able to make up Do Nows (Warm Ups), these are small assignments completed at the beginning of class. Missed work must be completed in a timely manner after your return to school. You have 1 class period for every day you were excused absent to complete missing assignments, any time longer and work will be regarded as late.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Cell phone and usage of any other electronic equipment is not allowed without the direction and consent of the teacher. No photos, video, recordings may be taken unless written approval by the teacher and the Executive Dean is given...i.e. you do not have permission to use snapchat during class! You **MAY NOT** use power outlets to charge your phone during class. I do allow students to listen to music, however headphones should never be worn outside of independent work time.

You will not need a tablet or laptop for this class, these should remain in your bag unless permission is given by me. Students who are having trouble managing their electronic devices, for whatever reason, will receive my personal oversight. I will take it.

BATHROOM USE/LEAVING CLASS: You will be given 4 hall passes per quarter. You may use the hall pass to get out of instructional time for a maximum of 10 minutes. What you do on your hall pass is up to you: restroom, phone calls, texting, walk around, talk to another teacher during office hours, get something from the front desk, see an administrator, have an attitude adjustment, you have many options. However, to leave my class you must use a pass. I do not give extra passes even if you lose them.

I recommend getting in the habit of going to the bathroom between classes since you will not be able to leave without one. Keep in mind that this does not excuse you being tardy. You may be asked to wait to exercise your use of a pass while I am giving vital instructions for lecture, assignments, and exams.

Un-used hall passes may be turned in the day of the semester final exam for extra credit. Note: Student who are suspect of unethical behavior will not be given an extra credit points, and may be subject to loss of professionalism points.

OTHER POLICIES:

--Seating will be assigned during the second week of school and will change periodically. I reserve the right to change your seat at any time. If you decide that another seat is better for you will be asked to leave class. You must be in your seat so I can assess attendance quickly in an emergency. Those with seating accommodations must see me independently outside of class.

--Medicine is dispensed at the front desk. I do not dispense medications. Use a pass to go up to the front and get these if you need them.

--Generally, you may move around the room freely as long as you are not a distraction and I am not addressing the entire class. You may not sharpen your pencil while I am talking. There is a water cooler in my room for you to refill a bottle or other container but I do not provide cups. You may use a hall pass if you need to get a drink from the front building.

--No distracting items are allowed (i.e. food [drinks are fine], electronic devices, pictures, notes, magazines, toys, slime, and makeup).

--Appropriate language will be used in the classroom—no swearing or other offensive remarks will be allowed.

--You are responsible for your academic progress and communication with Mr. Buckley about problems or struggles.

Cheating, Copying, and Plagiarism: Cheating, copying and plagiarism are serious acts of academic dishonesty that are not tolerated. Parents/Guardians of students involved and the Executive Dean will be informed of such behavior. Students who cheat or plagiarize receive a zero for the assignment or exam. Students involved in copying of work receive a zero for the assignment or exam, including any student allowing the copying to take place. Students who plagiarize may also receive a failing grade for the quarter.

If students or family members have questions about this, please talk to Mr. Buckley. All students are expected to achieve at the level of 70% or better in this class without factoring in extra credit. As a general rule, students should not expect extra credit. However, there are occasionally opportunities to earn extra credit points.

Nondiscrimination Policy: NSAA seeks to provide an academic and social environment that is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by law. NSAA seeks to promote a safe environment in which community members are free to express themselves without fear of recrimination.

Grading Scale and Percentages: The following scale will be used to assign your grade for each quarter and semester.

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

Each Quarter grade will consist of the following categories and percentages:

Professionalism and Attendance (20%)- Daily points for respect, readiness, and responsibility. 15 points a week, 5 points for each day class meets. Points will also be deducted for absences and tardiness.

Classwork (55%)- Do Nows, Binder checks, Document Analysis, and other in class assignments. Points of these assignments will vary and will constitute the largest part of your grade.

Essays, Tests, and Quizzes (25%)- There will be at least one test given per quarter. Quizzes will vary in number based on Unit. Geography Quizzes will be counted as part of this category.

Each quarter grade counts as 40% and the final is 20% as per NSAA school policy.

Benchmark tests do not count towards or against your grade in the course but are required 3 times a year and are used internally at NSAA. Benchmarks will occur in August, in December, and in May. Test data is instrumental in being able to refine course work and effectively plan for the future.