

# RESOURCE AMERICAN HISTORY

2008 - 2009

Instructor: Mr. Cook

Room: B

Time: Monday, Thursday 2:13-2:58; Tuesday 1:27-2:12; Friday 10:58-11:43

## GOAL

The goal of this course is to understand the history of American society. The period we will cover is roughly two hundred years long. It deals with all of the aspects of the life: religion, language, family, war, economics, politics, law, and culture. The people, events, and problems of the past must be known to understand American society and government as we know it today. We will use a variety of styles in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the story. Students will study maps, read a wide range of materials, work on projects as a class, write assignments of varying lengths, and listen to lectures.

## REQUIREMENTS

Historical study is an exercise in reading. Therefore we will have frequent reading assignments. I strongly recommend that you approach the reading assignments with three rules in mind: 1) do not leave the assignment for the night before it is due, 2) take notes, and 3) look up any words you do not understand.

During lectures you are encouraged to ask questions and add your own ideas. These additions will always be made by raising one's hand and waiting to be called upon. Interruptions will not be tolerated and may result in demerits. Discussion sessions teach us to tackle opinions based on their merits. Not all opinions will be or should be identical. *Ad hominem* debates are uninformative and unwelcome. All debates and discussions will remain civil and reasonable.

Attendance is more important than ability to a student's success, and so attendance will be an important part of your class participation grade. Tardiness robs you of the material discussed in class before your arrival, and it disrupts the learning experience for others when you arrive late. Therefore tardiness will not be tolerated. Three tardies will count as an absence, and any arrival to class more the fifteen minutes after the beginning of the period will also count as an absence.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is the theft of another's ideas. When writing and researching historical studies one must make clear the source of one's information. Only nearly universally known facts are exempt from citation rules. For example, if I write "The sun is bright," that statement needs no citation. But if I write that "On the morning of February 17<sup>th</sup> 1696 the sun was shining brightly," the source of this fact must be cited. In addition to preventing one from being subject to a charge of plagiarism, citing all one's facts allows others to follow the trail to their own conclusions. If evidence of plagiarism is discovered in any writings done for this course, it will be correctly treated as cheating.

## **SUPPLIES**

All students will come to class each day, unless otherwise instructed, with the following: one loose-leaf binder with lined paper for taking notes, and capable of accepting any handouts given, one set of 8 colored pencils, and one fine-point black Sharpie. All students must possess a dictionary, which they may leave at home to use for assigned readings. In addition, all students will be expected to bring any reading that is being discussed to class when necessary.

## **GRADING**

Cumulative points [participation, quizzes, tests, projects]: 80%

Final exam: 20%

## COURSE OUTLINE

The following is an outline of our progress this year, and is subject to change as needed.

### FIRST SEMESTER

Native North America  
European Colonialisms  
The Eighteenth Century  
Slavery  
The French and Indian War  
The American Revolution  
The Constitutional Moment  
The New Republic  
The Coming of War  
The Civil War  
Reconstruction

### SECOND SEMESTER

The Transcontinental Railroad  
The Industrial North  
The Gilded Age  
The Spanish-American War  
Imperialism  
The Great War  
Versailles  
Depression  
World War Two  
The Cold War  
The End of History?