

MR. HARRIS
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Room 72

AMERICAN THREADS

Welcome to American Threads. This year-long course is intended for the student who has demonstrated strong abilities in previous English classes and who is prepared for a challenge. Students in the Threads classes are expected to be especially active readers, productive writers, articulate participants, and exemplify high ethical standards. There are absolutely no excuses for students not to learn in this class. If you need extra help on assignments or projects, I am available mornings before school and most afternoons until 4:00. I look forward to getting to know you and assisting you in achieving your highest level of success.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will understand the major events of United States history with a focus on 1877-1975.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of geography, current events, and modern politics.
3. Students will independently read a variety of primary and secondary sources for meaning and understanding.
4. Students will research at a collegiate level, including citing excellent sources.
5. Students will demonstrate public speaking skills in speeches, discussions, debates, group work, and Socratic Seminar.
6. Students will think critically about all topics covered in class.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Students will come to class prepared when the bell rings.
2. Students will not interfere with the learning of others.
3. Students will respect themselves and others.
4. Students will contribute meaningfully every day.

Academic Integrity

Cheating in any form will not be accepted. Failure to follow this could result in an F for the semester. If you don't know the difference between "Working together" and cheating, make sure you ask before you do it. Turnitin.com will be used for writing assignments.

Themes

We will focus on two opposing themes per semester throughout our historical topics:
FIRST SEMESTER – *Suffering and Success* SECOND SEMESTER: *Fear and Fate*

Major History Topics:

Foundations to Reconstruction	Roaring Twenties Great Depression	Fifties and Cold War Civil Rights
Gilded and Progressive Era	American Foreign Policy World War II	Vietnam

Junior Research Project

Each junior is required to complete the Junior Research project during the course of the year. This will constitute a major part of first semester grade. Specific guidelines and requirements will be given as each part is assigned.

Public Speaking Tuesday

Each junior is required to give one major speech during the course of the year. You will write an essay then give a practice and final speech. Topics will be determined in early September. Essays will be due in October. Speeches will run from November to May. Specific guidelines and requirements can be found in the manual available online.

Family History Project

1. Immigration Experience (due in September); 2. Interview with Oldest Relative (due in third quarter); 3. Historical Memories (due in third quarter). Specific guidelines and requirements can be found in the manual available online.

Projects

There will be many projects assigned throughout the year, often times in groups of four. Often times you will be expected to communicate and collaborate outside of class with fellow group members and attendance on the day of presentations is mandatory.

Attendance/Late work

Regular class attendance is imperative. Missed work should be turned in no later than one class day following the student's return, but preferably sooner. It is your responsibility, not mine, to get the missed assignments and complete them in a timely manner. You will submit your absent work online. **Students who are absent on the due day of a project presentation or major assignment and do not contact me in advance will receive a zero on the assignment.**

Grading

Completed work/Assessments – 70%
Participation – 15%
Final Exam – 15%

I will accept most late work for one week after the due date with a 25% penalty (different for projects). You will submit late work online.

tinyurl.com/harrisishistory