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2016-2017

## WELCOME TO U.S. HISTORY

*"Those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it."*

*- George Santayana*

*"There is nothing new in this world except the history you do not know."*

*- Harry S. Truman*

### **Course Introduction, from the Northgate Course Catalog:**

*"The primary focus of this course will be to explore the major events, personalities, social, cultural, and technological changes that have shaped United States history from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The course begins with an overview of American history from the Age of Discovery to the Era of Reconstruction. The remainder of the course will be a study of the political, economic, social, cultural, and technological changes that have taken place in the United States in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Students will develop a sense of historical connection and an appreciation of historical time involving the past, present, and future. Students will also expand their historical literacy regarding 20th century American history. The course will promote democratic values and good citizenship through its examination of the evolution, effectiveness, and abuse of democratic institutions in America."*

My philosophy on the study of history is that it is something that should teach us about ourselves as well as others who have lived before us. Through the study of American history, we can become the well-educated populace that democracy is designed for. The ultimate goal is to become well-rounded and worldly citizens that will brighten the future of our nation.

I have outlined rules and grading policies for us to read and follow throughout the year. Understanding and abiding by these rules will lead to a successful experience for all of us in this class.

## CLASSROOM RULES

The following three rules shall be observed by the TEACHER and the STUDENTS.

1. **BE NICE**. Use appropriate tone and language at all times in the classroom. Cussing, racial, sexist, and offensive slurs and insults will never be OK in this room. It is of the utmost importance to have respect for yourself and your peers.
2. **BE HERE**. Arrive on time and *be prepared* for class. That means that when you arrive, you must have your notebook, textbook, and something to write with. And participation is key!
3. **BE CLEAN**. Keep your classroom and campus clean. Use the trash bins and recycling boxes for your garbage. No desk graffiti!

## Classroom Etiquette Expectations:

1. Please, no hats or hoods during tests. Eye contact is important.
2. No food or drinks during class. It leaves a mess, and we must share this space with other teachers and students.
3. Electronics, including phones and headphones, are OK at certain times and at the discretion of the teacher. Please do not wear headphones in class, or abuse the privilege of the use of electronics.
4. Restroom breaks during class are permitted as long as you ask permission first, and have a pass. Only one student is allowed out at a time.

## NOTEBOOKS AND SCHOOL WORK

- A. **Notebooks**: Students need a binder or spiral notebook that will be used in this class only. **NO COMPOSITION BOOKS PLEASE!** I will collect the notebook at the end of each unit of study (when we take assessments). I will explain how to keep the notebook. It is a substantial part of your grade, so it is in your best interest to get one soon and bring it every day.
- B. **Homework** is given each week. **Classwork** is given every day. In order to do work in class, you need the following materials with you each day:
  - a. Notebook
  - b. Pens/pencils
- C. **LATE WORK**: As a general rule, late work only receives partial credit. Any assignments more than one week late are not entitled to receive any credit. If you must turn something in late, please talk to me about it first.
- D. **Recommended materials**: Aside from the mandatory notebook, it is advised that you bring your own scotch tape and highlighters.

## ATTENDANCE

You have to be in class to pass! Participation is key.

- A. Make-up work:
  - a. If you have an *excused absence* (i.e. sports, field trips, illness, dr. appointment, etc.), please see me for your make-up assignments. Don't wait too long, though- you only get as many days as you were gone to make up the work.
  - b. There is NO make-up work for *unexcused absences* (i.e., truancies, suspensions). This includes tests!
- B. Tardiness: You must be familiar with the NHS tardy policy. Excessive tardies will result in consequences aligned to the school-wide tardy policy.
- C. Website: Please take advantage of the class website. Go to [mrsdillonshistorysite.weebly.com](http://mrsdillonshistorysite.weebly.com) and click on World History to find class notes, assignments, and a homework calendar. (Note- this is under construction and will be updated throughout the year.)

## GRADES

Grades are based on the following scale:

A= 90%-100%      B=80-89%      C=70-79%      D=60-69%      F=0%-59%

*FAQ: Do I round up?*

*Answer: That depends on you! Grades are not given, they are earned.*

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating is a major issue on many high school and college campuses, and is taken seriously by all staff. Academic dishonesty of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please understand that cheating is not helpful in guiding students toward success, and the risks are not worth the consequences.

## COURSE SYLLABUS

- I. Foundations of America to Reconstruction Era (this is largely a review unit)
- II. 1865-1920: The Gilded Age, The Progressive Era, and U.S. Foreign Policy
  - a. Industrialism
  - b. The growth of urban America
  - c. Immigration
  - d. American Imperialism

- III. World War I and the Interwar Years
  - a. The Roaring Twenties- The Jazz Age and Prohibition
  - b. The Great Depression and The Dust Bowl
  - c. New Deal Policies and FDR
- IV. World War II
  - a. America's new role in the world
- V. The Cold War: 1945-1960
  - a. McCarthyism
  - b. New media and early television
  - c. Cuban Missile Crisis
  - d. Growth of the suburbs
- VI. The Cold War: 1960-1980
  - a. Civil Rights Movement
  - b. Vietnam
  - c. Counter-Culture Movements and Women's Liberation
- VII. 70s, 80s, and 90s
  - a. Watergate
  - b. Environmental Concern
  - c. Iran-Contra Scandal
  - d. Reagan's economy
  - e. The AIDS epidemic
  - f. Clinton's presidency
- VIII. Post-9/11 America
  - a. Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - b. America's role in the world

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*PLEASE DETACH THIS SECTION AND RETURN WITH YOUR SIGNATURE AND YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE.*

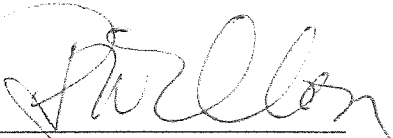
*I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE CLASSROOM POLICIES.*

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Student's Name (please print)

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Student's Signature

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Parent's Name (please print)

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Parent's Signature

  
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Mrs. Paula Dillon, Social Studies Teacher