**Advanced Placement United States History Course Syllabus**

***“He that is good at making excuses is seldom good for much else,” –Benjamin Franklin***

**Introduction**

Advanced Placement United States History is a year-long course designed to give students the opportunity to cover the general history of the United States, from Colonization to today, while also diving deeper into various themes and issues that carry through the course. This course will be centered around ‘Essential Questions’ which are designed to aid students in creating a deeper understanding of the ‘why’ in American History, rather than simply recalling historical facts. The emphasis in this course is critical thinking, so be prepared to take a stand on issues that may or may not have a correct answer! This course WILL BE **CHALLENGING**! It is designed to get you prepared for the AP exam and my expectation is that you will take this exam. We will be examining complex documents, political propaganda and cartoons, and other historical texts. Please open your mind to the challenging task ahead for all of us with the expectation that we will all grow from this experience.

**Classroom Conduct**

As all of you are now juniors in high school, this class will be conducted with the expectation that you act appropriately. While there will certainly be times to discuss, debate, and even argue, respect is absolutely mandatory. This respect is required for both your peers and for myself. I will treat you in a similar manner. My goal is to establish an atmosphere of absolute community in our class, and this is only possible if we treat each other with respect at all times.

The four principles that this community will be built on are **respect, cooperation, responsibility, and empathy**. Violation of these core principles will result in consequences. Appropriate action will be taken following the official policies of Alliance Neuwirth Leadership Academy, such as detention or the loss of school privileges, at my discretion.

**Policies and Procedures**

1. Don’t be late. If you are, a 15-minute detention will be given without warning, with escalating length of detention as reflected by the number of tardies. Students will be excused if a teachers’ note is present with time and date.

2. Coming prepared to class is very important. We have a lot of content to get to, so it is important that you are in your ASSIGNED seat, ready to learn when class begins. **My responsibility as your teacher is to be prepared to teach you everyday. Your responsibility as a learner is to come to class prepared to do your part, which is to learn.**

3. As we are in a block schedule, your presence everyday is **highly important**; missing out on one day is like missing out on two days, due to the amount of time you miss. For this reason, please try to limit your absences. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to acquire the makeup work and get it done before our next class session. I WILL NOT COME FIND YOU IF YOU NEED MAKEUP WORK! That’s your job.

4. Participation is NOT optional. I understand some of you are shy. Get over it. Being wrong is OK. Being unwilling to risk being wrong is not.

**Grading Policy**

All students should work hard and do their best on EVERY assignment I give you. Assignments will range from classwork, guided notes, homework, projects, group projects, activities, simulations, tests, and participation. Participation will be a subjective grade, based on behavior, attendance, preparation and willingness to participate in class discussions. **academic honesty will be taken very seriously**. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**Supplemental Curriculum Materials**

I will use supplemental materials on a regular basis in the class. These will range from readings and political cartoons to documentary films, all of which may address many controversial issues like racism, segregation, and violence, which can show scenes that are sometimes graphic in nature. For example, scenes from the film Saving Private Ryan, depicting the Allied invasion of Normandy, or documentary footage of the Vietnam War, shows history in a more vivid way.

**If the student, parent, or guardian is opposed to the use of such supplemental materials, then alternative arrangements can be made. Please contact me as soon as possible regarding this!**

**Material Requirements**

For this class, you will need a separate binder and spiral notebook. You will need to take great care in ensuring these materials are present and in good condition for every class session. What we are doing is compiling for you a complete student-created resource for you to reference for tests in this class and in the future. You will be evaluated on the work you do in the notebook and in the binder based on your content quality (level of analysis, contextualization, completion), and visual presentation (neatness, organization).

* Paper! Almost everything in class will come with provided resources but sometimes (essays, etc.) you’ll need your own.
* At least 1 large 3-ring binder (You’ll fill it up, I promise)
* Please also bring to class dividers for your notebook. We will organize our notebooks during the first few weeks of school before diving into all of the material that will go into your notebook. You will need 7 dividers total.

**If you have any issues acquiring these materials, please come speak with me personally, as soon as you can.**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change at any point upon my discretion\*\*\*\*\*\***

It is important to understand the course syllabus. By signing this letter, you are agreeing to uphold the terms of this syllabus and that you approve of the content, so I encourage parents/guardians to also review it with your child. Please fill out the bottom portion and return it.

Student name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Guardian name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature/Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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