

AMERICAN HISTORY 1 – THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Spring 2020, Mr. Thorpe

athorpe2@wpcss.net

Remind Code: thorpeah1s to 81010

<https://mrthorpe.weebly.com/>



Overview

Welcome to American History I: Founding Principles! I am excited to begin a new semester and looking forward to a rigorous, yet fun-filled semester. Let me say right away that I have the highest expectations of each and every one of you. It should be your goal to earn an A in this class and I am here to do everything I can to help you achieve at the highest level. During the course of the semester please do not hesitate to ask me questions and seek extra help when necessary (SMART LUNCH). Below you will find out how your grades will be calculated this semester and a brief description of grading policies, classroom assignments and expectations.

Course Description

- This is a survey course. The course begins with the study of the motivations of European Colonization of the Americas and continues through the Reconstruction period following the American Civil War.
- In North Carolina the study of history no longer supports memorization of unexamined and isolated facts, but emphasizes the thinking skills to detect trends, analyze movements and events and develop a “sense of history.”
- American History is designed to be challenging and requires students to take greater responsibility for their learning by participating in problem seeking and solving, scholarly and creative processes, critical analysis and application, reflective thinking, and the expression and defense of ideas generated through the study of content.
- North Carolina Essential Standards:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/american-history-1.pdf>

PCHS Basic Expectations

Students are expected to meet the following:

1. Be Present and On Time
2. Be Prepared and Engaged in Learning
3. Be a Person of Character
4. Be Safe and Comply with all PCHS and WCPSS Policies

Grades

Nine Weeks Grade – Academic	Nine Weeks Grade – Honors	Overall Course Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major Assignments – 50%• Minor Assignments– 35%• Student Engagement– 15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major Assignments – 60%• Minor Assignments– 30%• Student Engagement – 10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First nine weeks – 40%• Second nine weeks – 40%• Final Exam – 20%

Homework assignments will be graded using a 4-point scale:

The grades are as follows = 4=100, 3=89, 2=79, 1=69, 0=40

Work returned beyond the due date will be penalized one point on the 4-point scale for each day late.

Test corrections will be available during the course of the semester. All students will be eligible to complete test corrections during SMART LUNCH only.

Test corrections are available regardless of score. However, points added to the original score will be based on cohort:

Honors - ¼ credit back

Academic - ½ credit back

Classwork/Homework

Classwork and Homework account for a large portion of your grade. Needless to say, these assignments will be very important for you as you begin your work this semester. I expect that homework will be completed to the best of your ability on a nightly basis. The study of history requires due diligence on your part to review material and read for comprehension.

Make-Up Work

- It is YOUR responsibility to find out what you have missed.
- Talk to your classmates about what you missed.
- Ask me if you have any questions about missed assignments and/or due dates.
- If you know you are going to be absent in advance, ask me for work ahead of time.
- You will be given a day to make-up work for every day you missed. Students who miss 3 or more consecutive days will work with the teacher to arrange an alternate timetable.
- You MUST write "ABSENT" at the top of all make-up work.

A Word About Participation

It is absolutely necessary that each of you come to class prepared to challenge text, ask questions, and voice your opinion on any range of topics. We cannot have a successful classroom without full participation from everyone. I will never force you to speak, but my expectation is that everyone will take an active role in our classroom this semester.

SMART Lunch:

SMART Lunch will be available on Mondays (A Half) and Thursdays (B Half). Students who attend 4 or more SMART Lunches in a quarter will earn 25 additional points on their Student Engagement grade.

Notebooks

In order to ensure your success in this course I STRONGLY recommend you keep a well-organized three-ring notebook with loose-leaf notebook paper. I suggest that you also include dividers in your notebook to keep better organized. Be sure to include the date on all your assignments as this will help you keep your notebook in good order.

Materials

- Writing utensils- Pencils and pens- ***Please use only black or blue ink only***
- 3 Ring binder with notebook paper and dividers (if you choose to organize your notebook this way)
- Index Cards

Textbooks:

The Americans (textbook) - This text will be used as an in-class resource

Online Textbooks: Students may be asked to utilize online, public domain textbooks for home-based readings. The websites for these public domain books are below.

- Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2013). *Digital History*. Retrieved (8/19/14 from <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>
- <http://www.ushistory.org/us/index.asp>

Academic Integrity

Students will be expected to follow the WCPSS Student Honor Code regarding cheating and plagiarism. The Honor Code can be found here: <https://www.wcpss.net/handbook>

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change based on PLT discretion.

I'm looking forward to a semester! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns!

A. Ryan Thorpe
athorpe2@wcpss.net