

Lessons of the Vietnam War & Recent International Relations (Honors)

Spring 2019

Mr. Thorpe

Room: 2610
Email: athorpe2@wcpss.net
Website: http://mrthorpe.weebly.com

SMART Lunch Sessions

Mondays & Thursdays
 (Open A & B Halves)
 Room 2610

Course Description:

Lessons of the Vietnam War & Recent International Relations will examine the military, political, and diplomatic history of the Vietnam War and the direct and indirect lessons that can be applied to present policies concerning United States International relations in the present day. This unique class has no political agenda, and utilizes only primary documents and sources that promote active, aggressive student learning. Upon course completion students will be able to identify major 'Cold War' events prior to U.S. involvement, French influence, guerrilla warfare and tactics, North & South Vietnamese leadership, influences from the anti-war movement, roles of China, Laos, Cambodia, and the Soviet Union throughout the war, U.S. elections in 1968, 72, and 76, the Paris Peace Accords, failure of Vietnamization, and final withdraw. Furthermore, students will evaluate and examine U.S. policy from 1992 including the tactics, and strategies from the Vietnam era and how they relate to the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, peacekeeping missions in Somalia and Haiti, terrorist actions prior and after the September 11th attacks, and the current U.S. involvement in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Primary & secondary sources, music, videos, discussions, and debates will be incorporated with daily lessons.

Course Topics

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geography, History, Culture of Vietnam ▪ U.S. Foreign Policy: Containment ▪ American Involvement ▪ America Takes Charge ▪ Who Fought for the U.S.? ▪ How the War was Fought ▪ The War at Home ▪ How the War was Reported ▪ Vietnamization of the War ▪ The Wounds of War and the Process of Healing ▪ The Legacy of the Vietnam War ▪ Normalization of U.S./Vietnam Relations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How is Foreign Policy Made? ▪ The Origins of the Cold War ▪ The Cold War Turns Hot: The Korean War ▪ Eisenhower and the Cold War ▪ JFK and the Cold War ▪ The Middle East, the U.S., and the World ▪ Carter and the Camp David Accords ▪ Carter and the Iranian Hostage Crisis ▪ Reagan and the Cold War ▪ George H.W. Bush and Operation Desert Storm ▪ The U.S. and Asia ▪ War on Terrorism |
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Supplies

1. One binder that includes sections for: Warm-Ups, Notes, Homework, Handouts, and Returned Assignments.
2. Writing Utensils (Blue/Black Pens or Pencils)
3. Loose-leaf paper
4. Colored Pencils (Optional, but recommended)

Evaluation & Grading

<u>Grade Weights</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>	<u>4-Point Grading Scale</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Assignments – 60% • Minor Assignments – 30% • Student Engagement – 10% 	A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59-0	4 - 100 3 - 89 2 - 79 1 - 69 0 - 40

Attendance and Make-up Work

In the event of an absence, each student is responsible for making up his or her work. If you are absent, the day you return you are to turn in the work from the last day you were present. In the event of an absence, a student can make up work under the conditions listed in the *Panther Creek High School Student/Parent Handbook*.

Each student is responsible for getting his or her missed assignments from the instructor using the “Absent Work” files or through “Blackboard” website via a school computer or home computer with Internet access.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted with the following penalties:

- 11 point deduction for 1 day late (Maximum grade of 89)
- 10 point deduction for each additional day, up to 5 days total (79, 69, 59, 49)
- Grade of 40 for all late work of more than 5 days

Zero Policy

- Zeroes are applied to ALL assignments that are not submitted/attempted.
- If homework/classwork/student engagement is attempted/submitted, 40 is the lowest score entered for classwork or homework assignments.
- Major assessments are entered as scored.

Canvas & Class Website

Many of our assignments, handouts, readings, etc. will be on Mr. Thorpe’s class website. Other materials will be available on Canvas. These can be accessed from a home or school computer with internet access. If a student does not have home internet access he or she may use a computer in the PCHS Media Center before school, during SMART lunch, or after school.

Hall Passes/Tardiness

Students are encouraged to take care of all personal business prior to coming to class. Students are not allowed to leave the room without an official hall pass from an authorized staff member. Unexcused tardiness will be handled appropriately (warning, parent contact, lunch detention, etc.). The tardy policy is outlined in the *PCHS Student/Parent Handbook*.

Basic Expectations

In respect to the learning environment and the advancement of each day’s lesson, students are expected to meet the PCHS Basic Expectations:

1. Be present and on time.
2. Be prepared for and engaged in learning.
3. Be a person of character.
4. Be safe and comply with PCHS and WCPSS policies.

Success Strategies

For a successful completion of the course, students should:

1. Take notes from lectures and assigned readings.
2. Ask course-related questions.
3. Turn in assignments on time.
4. Discuss issues in a rational manner.
5. Seek extra help when needed. Students may attend tutorials during SMART lunch.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.