

Name: _____

Print

AMERICAN HISTORY Fall 2009

INSTRUCTORS: Mr. Bertero

Email: abertero@stmchs.org

Ext. 434

Course Description:

This one-year course is broken into two semesters and will provide students an opportunity to study American History from the American Revolution Era into the 21st Century of American Society. Using the Textbook *American Nation*, primary documents and current events, students will study various political, social, and economic developments that have shaped our country to the present day. The goals of the Fall Semester for students is to study the core principles of our American democracy and institutions which were established in the early 18th century and built upon into the period of 19th Century that recognized America as a World Industrial Power.

Primary Sources:

- ◆ Textbook – American Nation: Holt, Rhinehart & Winston

OTHER MATERIALS:

- ◆ Each student is expected to bring **paper, a writing implement**, along to a **binder or folder** with a section set aside for their American History work **on a daily basis**.
- ◆ **Website:** students may access the faculty Webpage related to this course by logging onto www.saintmaryschs.org

COURSE OVERVIEW:

We all know that most history courses traditionally look at history as a long list of names and dates; as something that was made many years ago by few famous men and with little relevance to our lives and times today. In this course our goal is to break this static mold by looking at history through the eyes and hearts of the people who may not have made the front pages of papers or textbooks, but who have been and are the essence of human history, i.e. people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and walks of life.

Another goal of this course is to overcome the notion that every school subject belongs all by itself and is unrelated to other subjects. In fact, everything in life interconnects. In this course we use what are traditionally seen as “English” methods (acting, discussing, writing, reading, drawing) to delve into history, explore history, with an outcome that we believe reflects a better understanding of both subjects, and an experience that is twice as enriching.

COURSE GOALS

In this course of study, we do not rely simply on memorization of names and dates. Rather, we emphasize a deeper understanding of concepts and of causes and effects, so that history becomes deeper understanding of concepts and of causes and effects, so that history becomes decipherable and meaningful. This course above all seeks to teach students how to ask good questions, and how to find answers to those questions, i.e. to become more motivated and capable learners. *Active Learners*

Name: _____

Other goals include:

- ◆ Improvement of critical thinking skills
- ◆ Development of writing skills over a wide range of writing forms, including essays, research papers, and journals.
- ◆ Gaining appreciation for the similarities and differences of people and to gain respect for the rights of individuals of various abilities, backgrounds age and gender groups.
- ◆ Critical examinations of one's own values and those held by others. Becoming increasingly competent and critical readers, able to comprehend, appreciate, and analyze a wide range of written work, ranging from novels and poems to textbooks, primary documents, graphic data, and propaganda.
- ◆ Gaining better understanding of the institutions of American government and politics.
- ◆ Increasing interest in history and gaining both an awareness of its relevance to our lives today, and a sense of civic responsibility and empowerment.
- ◆ **Expansion of vocabulary**
- ◆ Development of interpersonal skills, including communication and collaboration.

CLASS RULES:

The rules for this class are based on a respect for others and on appropriate college comportment...

From the moment each class period begins, **please do not:**

- ◆ bring food or drinks in the classroom
- ◆ Wear sunglasses and/or hats
- ◆ Have on headphones visible (if seen, they will be given to the dean).
- ◆ Have an activated cell phones or electronic devices.
- ◆ Begin packing, zipping, rustling, etc. before the day's lesson is over.

ATTENDANCE:

Prompt and daily attendance is basic to success in any class, as well as any job. In our class in particular, good attendance on the part of every student is essential. The course emphasizes group work and many units build on work from one day to the next. A student's continual absence adversely affects both their group's work, and their own learning process.

***Attendance and participation will make up 20% of the students semester grade.**

OTHER POLICIES:

- ◆ Students are expected to keep up with ALL GRADED/ RETURNED WORK in an orderly fashion in an American History section of their binder. Past work will be referred to on future assignments and tests, and can also provide you with documentation of work in case of a dispute.
- ◆ Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to begin working as soon as class begins. Please do any pencil sharpening, paper shuffling, restroom visiting, etc., before the period begins.
- ◆ Plagiarism (of the work of any authors, students, or professional) is unethical and not permitted.

Assignments: Accumulative Point Grading System

- ◆ All assignments (homework) are to be completed prior to class. ALL work should be done on a manner that is **thorough and that follows the instructions for full credit.**

Name: _____

Any assignments not completed on time, or that shows lack of attention, will be down grade in points and/or considered late, or may not be credited at all, depending on the assignment and the discretion of the instructor.

- ◆ **Homework**, in high school and in preparation for college, extends beyond specific “due” assignments. Students should always complete unit reading, review lecture notes, and complete assignments on a daily basis. The more a student reviews and thinks about the unit material, the more one will understand and be more interested in the concept and focus of the unit studied.

MAKE- UP WORK:

- ◆ If an absence or tardy is excused, students should always see the History Webpage or contact fellow classmate or instructor. Students will be able to complete missed work if they come to get the assignment from the instructor immediately upon return (due dates to be agreed upon by the student and the instructor). Formal Assessments and assignments may not be made up if missed for an unexcused reason.
- ◆ Students are **NOT** down graded for absent or make-up completed in a timely manner.

Collaborative / GROUP WORK:

Many of the assignments in American History are specifically designed for collaborative work. All students are expected to show respect for other group members, to form groups that promptly get to, and stick to the task when asked to make their own groupings, and to accept assigned groups when instructors direct groupings. Each group member is expected to participate and pull their share of weight. Being in class and on time is especially important because of this team approach.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

Students are evaluated and graded periodically throughout the semester.

Points are assigned and accumulated for percentage of Semester Grade in the areas:

- ◆ Written Assignments
- ◆ Attendance and participation
- ◆ Individual and group projects
- ◆ Substantive Quizzes and Exams
- ◆ Analytical & Conceptual Understanding

Power School: is readily available throughout the semester for both student and parents to access the progress of the student’s academic performance.

Semester Grade: Points are assigned and accumulated for:

- ◆ Formal Assessments 40%
- ◆ Participation; *Assignments 40%
- ◆ Semester Final 20%

Percentages of points reflect: See Student –Parent Handbook (pg.15) Grading System

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| A = 90 - 100 | (90 - 93% = A- | 94 - 100%= A) | |
| B = 80 - 89 | (80 - 83% = B- | 84 - 86%=B | 87 - 89%=B+) |
| C = 70 - 79 | (70 - 73% = C- | 74 - 76%=C | 77 - 79%=C+) |
| D = 60 - 69 | (60 - 63% = D- | 64 - 66%=D | 67 - 69%=D+) |
| F = 59 - below | | | |

Name: _____

American History: Course Description
Mr. Bertero/Fall 09

We expect all students to put forth a good amount of effort in this class; we do not encourage the attitude of “sliding by.” If a student accumulates less than a 70% of the possible points in class, the instructor will review the case to determine whether the student has mastered enough material to receive a “**D**” or passing grade.

PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Student and parents should acknowledge with their signature below that they have fully reviewed the description and requirements for the American History course. Please note any concerns you may have under the comment section or in their binder throughout the year.

Please visit Faculty Webpage for all future reference on course assignments & Course Description.

Student: _____

Date: _____

Parent/ Guardian _____

Date: _____

Comments: