

# *A Survey of American History*

## *A Syllabus: By J. Sytsma*

### *Greetings and Salutations,*

You have chosen to take U.S. History, a yearlong survey class of American history, which picks up where your 8<sup>th</sup> grade history class left off. According to the course outline, this class is a comprehensive yearlong study of United States history with special emphasis on the 20th century. It will stress political, economic, social, diplomatic, and cultural developments in the United States during the last 100 years. Students will be required to read several historical works and to become acquainted with historical research techniques and basic historical writing.

Throughout the semester we will study and look at many different areas of history. We will begin in the 1870's, and try to make it past the Vietnam War, and into the 1980's. We will have a variety of different learning styles; lectures, documentaries, projects just to name a few.

Before we begin, there are a few items that need to be addressed. Please follow along, and if you have any questions, please let me know.

### *Basics:*

Bring paper and a pencil (and your book if you have one) **everyday**. Be prepared. I really won't tolerate for long those who need paper everyday, and we will begin without you.

Plagiarism: If you wish to pass this required class, I suggest not doing it. If you do not know what plagiarism is, we'll talk about it now.

Tardies are noted. I fill out excessive tardy forms, and detentions are served with me first, and after that, with the office. Multiple tardies and absences will result in a reduction of participation points on the final grade. *After 10 Absences, you may be dropped from my class.*

**Respect each other!** Respect everyone's opinion in this classroom, even if you thoroughly disagree with it. Don't think I agree with everything I hear either, but Respect is a must in this classroom.

No Ipods, MP3's, Cellphones, or any other electronic device. Keep it out of sight, and not in use. If I see it, it goes to the office.

There is NO FOOD in the B-Wing. And my room is in the B-Wing – so water only please, no pop and no food.

### *Grades:*

I use the standard FHPS grading scale as found in your handbook. I try to update Edline every two weeks. All late work is given half credit, at most (which is better than the 0 if you never turn in the work.) The first and second 9 weeks will be worth roughly 43 percent, with the Final Exam worth 15 percent for each semester. These numbers are flexible, and might change.

Overall this is a pretty interesting class (although right now you may think not). We will cover a variety of topics, and usually students find at least one unit interesting. I try to bring in original items, pictures, music, and other things that are not in the book, and try to keep the pace moving as well. Even if you don't like History, I hope you'll try your best, and perhaps leave here in June with a better understanding, or even enjoyment of History. And if you ever have any questions concerning any aspect of the class, do not hesitate to email me or stop in and see me outside of class. My contact information is as follows:

[Jsytmsa@fhps.us](mailto:Jsytmsa@fhps.us)

My website is currently under construction. I will put it on the board when its finished.