

8th Grade Pre-AP U.S. History
Northland Preparatory Academy
Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Instructor: Mrs. Katherine Anderssohn
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Room: 208

Course Description:

In this survey course, we will examine the history of the American nation, its people, and how they have affected the world. Here we will move beyond the memorization and recitation of basic facts into a level of analysis that requires the comprehension of larger ideas and themes. We will discuss these overarching themes that penetrate all of history and how they exist in and affect our world today.

Course Objectives:

1. To demonstrate study and research skills through conventional and technological avenues.
2. To practice and improve oral and written communication abilities
3. To synthesize opinions based on primary and secondary evidence
4. To analyze and evaluate information for validity, accuracy and bias
5. To examine the links between the past and present in preparation for the future

Required Materials

- 1-2 packs of college rule loose leaf paper (more as needed)
- 7 folder dividers
- 2"-3" wide 3 ring binder
- Pencils of desired type and shade
- Pens- blue and black (at least 1-2 of each color)
- 1 pack of colored pencils or markers
- Highlighters (optional but very helpful)
- Flash drive (optional but very helpful)

Textbook and additional reading

American History- The Modern Era Since 1865 by Donald Ritchie; Glencoe McGraw Hill (provided)

Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell; Houton Mifflin Harcourt, 1970- (each student will need to purchase/rent a copy~\$7 on Amazon)

Assignment Categories and approximate weights

1. Tests/Quizzes- 35%
2. Essays/Projects- 35%
3. Homework/Classwork- This includes group discussions and debates, as well as smaller homework assignments- 30%

Class Policies

Missing or Late work: Students who have excused absences (illness, sports, family events) will receive the same number of days as their absence to turn in any missed work for full credit. After that, work is docked 10% per day that it is late.

Plagiarism: Due to the introductory nature of this class, plagiarism in rough drafts or smaller assignments will be addressed in class by the teacher and appropriate consequences dispensed. Plagiarism on major assignments and papers will result in a 0 for the assignment, a referral to the dean, and the student will need to rewrite the assignment.

Textbooks: Students will be assigned a textbook at the beginning of the year; students are not required to bring their book to class each day, however there will be certain days we will use it in class for which students will be notified to bring their books. Failure to return a textbook in decent condition at the end of the school year will result in a fine for the textbook's replacement.

Technology: Students are allowed to make use of personal technology (tablets, cell phones, ipods, etc) during appropriate times in class, i.e. after completing a test or using it as a research aid for group projects. However, technology use in class must be for educational purposes and this privilege may be suspended by the teacher if she deems necessary. Students will also turn in cell phones before each and every exam and will receive them back at the end of the period, or when everyone has finished.

Food/drink: Students may bring healthy, neat (not prone to excessive crumbs) snacks to class, as well as drinks in sealable containers. No gum please.

Film: Several pieces of film are used in illustrating key events during the course of this class. While most of these films are documentaries, some are sections of feature films. None of these films exceed a PG-13 rating. If a student or parent has a concern with a documentary or film, please contact the teacher.

If you have an issues or questions, please feel free to contact your teacher at any time. Welcome to the 8th grade!

After reading this syllabus, please return the following tear off with a parent/guardian signature

Student Name:

Parent Signature:

Date: