American History: Discovery to Present

The compelling question and course goal of this class is; **HOW WELL HAS AMERICA LIVED UP TO ITS IDEALS?** In order to explore this question this class will look at American History thematically. In other words, instead of starting at the very beginning of American History and finishing with the most recent events in our history, we will look at U.S. history from the perspective of nine different sets of smaller compelling questions:

Unit 1: American Roots & Rebellion: *What ideals most shaped America?*

Unit 2: Revolution and Constitution: *Why do certain ideals become dominant?*

Unit 3: American Expansion: *Are societies consistent with the application of ideals?*

Unit 4: Civil War & Reconstruction: *How do ideals lead to conflict?*

Unit 5: Rights and Responsibilities: *How and why does social change happen?*

Unit 6: Industrialization and Immigration (to 1924): *To what extent has the American Dream been an achievable reality?*

Unit 7: Boom and Bust (1924 to present): *To what extent has the American Dream been an achievable reality?*

Unit 8: Friends, Foes, and Fanatics: *Does might make right? How has America tried to expand our ideals?*

**Classroom Expectations**
1. Treat each other with respect
2. Be on time
3. Come prepared to class

**Material Required**
1. Chromebook
2. Binder
3. Loose leaf paper
4. Writing utensil (Pen and/or Pencil)
5. Highlighters
Textbooks Used

United States History and Geography by Joyce Appleby, Alan Brinkley, Albert S. Broussard, James McPherson, and Donald Ritchie

Attendance

I expect you to be in class everyday unless you have an excused absence. If your absence is justified then **it is your responsibility to find out what work you need to make-up.** As per the school policy, you will only have **FIVE days** to make-up any missed homework.

Homework

Homework will receive consideration for full credit only if submitted on the required due date. I will try to give you as much advance notice as possible regarding the due date. Homework will compose **10%** of your final grade. This category includes all work that is done primarily outside of class. Some of this work will be collected and fully graded, and some will be checked in on the due date. For work that is collected, **I will accept late work for a 20% deduction per calendar day.** Work that is checked in will not be accepted late.

Class Participation

This will be an interactive class and will include simulations, discussions, and activities. Therefore, your participation is crucial if you want be successful and if you want the class to be enjoyable. Participation will compose **40%** of your grade.

Assessments

From time to time I will provide you with an assessment of your knowledge of the material we have covered during a particular unit. It might consist of a multiple choice exam, essay, Socratic seminar or a project. If you come to class, do your work, and review a bit, these assessments will be no problem and should be an enjoyable experience for all involved. Assessments will compose **40%** of your grade.

Grades

My grading system is very simple **10% Homework, 40% Assessments, 40% Participation, and 10% Final Exam.**

The grading scale is as follows:

A 90%-100%
B 80%-89%
C 70%-79%
D 60%-69%
F below 59%