American Studies

Syllabus

Mr. Turnbaugh & Mr. Zeman

2019-2020
AMERICAN STUDIES
COURSE OUTLINE AND EXPECTATIONS

American Studies is designed to explore the relationship between history and literature. Additionally, this course strives to promote the continued development of language and critical thinking skills while providing a variety of experiences that will enhance your ability to answer the following question: How have American literature and history helped define what it means to be an American and to what extent have we lived up to that definition?

EXPECTATIONS

All students will act responsibly, strive to do their best, interact respectfully with classmates and teachers, and achieve personal growth in the course. Students are expected to come to class everyday mentally and physically. The following items must be brought to class every day:
1. 3-ring binder (with dividers, loose-leaf paper can class handouts, worksheets, etc.)
2. Charged Chromebook
3. Highlighter, pen and pencil

ATTENDANCE

Because a large portion of our class’s grading includes in-class performance, absences will be harmful to your progress. Therefore, it is important that you attend class regularly. You are responsible for completing all make-up work within a specific time frame designated by your teachers, when you return from your absence. Please consult our weekly calendars given in class.

ACTIVITIES

The major activities of this course include:
1. Writing (expository, research, narrative, creative, journals)
2. Reading (primary sources, novels, short stories, poetry, drama)
3. Speaking (group and individual presentations, formal speeches, reenactments)
4. American Studies Research Project
5. Vocabulary study
6. Simulations
7. Debates and Socratic Seminars
8. Class discussions
9. The use of films, presentations, and technological resources
10. Quizzes, tests, and other assessments
EVALUATION

Students will receive **one grade** for American Studies and receive credit for both English 3 and American History. We will use a variety of grading rubrics to evaluate student performance, depending on the goals and objectives of the assignment (see attached rubrics for specifics).

**The most important part of this grading philosophy asks students to continually challenge themselves to excel and achieve personal growth relative to the stated goals and objectives of the course.** Throughout the semester enrichment activities will give individual students the opportunity to do in-depth studies of topics in order to broaden their understanding of the content of the course.

COMMUNICATION

Throughout the year, each student will receive a weekly calendar listing classroom activities and assignments. This calendar will help plan and prepare for class. Students and/or parents should regularly access calendars, updated grades, important links, and handouts through their individual PowerSchool and Google accounts.

Throughout the school year American Studies teachers can be contacted in the following ways:

- **Mr. Brian Turnbaugh**
  - (630) 876-6593
  - bturnbaugh@d94.org
  - Prep Periods 1st & 3rd
  - Classroom - Room 184
  - Office - Room 199

- **Mr. Joe Zeman**
  - (630) 876-6453
  - jzeman@d94.org
  - Prep Periods 1st & 9th
  - Classroom – Room 197 & 175
  - Office – Room 199
FOCUS QUESTION
How have American literature and history helped define what it means to be an American and to what extent have we lived up to that definition?

**Seeds of American Culture**
What initial ideals and elements of the world’s cultures helped define our new society?

**Revolution and New Nation**
How have Americans defined legitimate authority and the justification of rebellion?

**Expansion and Reform**
What ideals shaped the growth of a new nation?

**American Division**
How can ideals lead to conflict?

**American Renewal**
From the aftermath of conflict, what ideals evolve?

**American Dream**
To what extent is the American Dream a reality?

**American Diversity**
How do groups compel America to live up to its ideals?

**Emerging America**
What ideals cause America to become involved in world affairs?
AMERICAN STUDIES
CLASS GRADE RUBRIC

A students' work is characterized by consistent precision, neatness, depth, and quality. A students act in a responsible manner: arrive to class on time; get absences excused; turn in all assignments on time; constantly turns in work of high quality; participate in class on a regular basis; respect other students' and the teachers’ work and ideas.

B students' work is characterized most often by precision, neatness, depth, and quality. B students act in a responsible manner: arrive to class on time; get absences excused; turn in all assignments on time; generally turn in work of high quality, with a few exceptions; participate in class; respect other students' and the teachers’ work and ideas.

C students' work is characterized by neatness, thoughtfulness, and occasional signs of depth and quality. C students act in a responsible manner: arrive to class on time; most often get absences excused; occasionally turn in papers and/or homework on time; participate in class; respect other students' and the teachers’ work and ideas.

D students' work is characterized by neatness and a minimal grasp of the subject matter. D students act in a responsible manner: usually arrive to class on time; most often get absences excused; infrequently turn in papers and homework on time; participate in class occasionally; respect other students' and the teachers’ work and ideas.

F student’s work is characterized by a lack of quality, little effort, and a failure to make an appropriate response to an assignment. F students act in an irresponsible manner: rarely arrive to class on time; rarely get absences excused; most often turn in papers and homework late, if at all; participate in class rarely; show little respect to other students' and the teachers’ work and ideas.

4 TRAITS OF SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE

1. Hardworking
2. Respectful
3. Responsible
4. Caring
GRADING STANDARDS AND WEIGHTING

The grading weights and scale for American Studies are:

1st Semester
- 45% Major Grades (Tests, Papers, Presentations)
- 20% Class Participation
- 20% Homework (assignments, homework quizzes)
- 15% Semester Exam

2nd Semester
- 30% Major Grades (Quizzes, Tests, Papers, Presentations)
- 20% Class Participation
- 20% Homework (assignments, homework quizzes)
- 15% American Studies Research Paper
- 15% Semester Exam

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

* All major grades, including the final exam, must be turned in completed and in an acceptable manner to receive credit for the course. Failure to complete any major grades results in a failure of American Studies for the semester!

*Unless otherwise stated, all late homework assignments will receive a maximum of one-half credit. No homework will be accepted beyond one week past its deadline. Furthermore, assignments reviewed in class or graded and returned will NOT receive credit. Warning that many assignments will be graded the day they are due. Major grades turned in late will be penalized one grade per day late. 2 homework passes will be given that can be used to turn in a completed assignment late for full credit.

*According to school policy, there is a five day limit on completing missed assignments due to excused absences.

*Once again, to aid in your academic success is this class, you should regularly consult both the weekly classroom calendar and your PowerSchool and Google account for up-to-date assignments, classroom activities, due dates, and grades.
BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMAL WRITING

Requirements:
All formal writing assignments for the class must be typed and in MLA format. Google Docs will be our main word processing programs. All typed papers are required to:

1. Contain a heading in MLA format in the top left-hand corner with your first and last name. The second line should be your instructors’ names, the third line should be the course title, the fourth line should contain the date with the day first, followed by month and year, finally, you should have a creative title, center justified, in 12 point font.
   Example:

   Billy Numerous
   Mr. Zeman and Mr. Turnbaugh
   American Studies
   17 August 2019

2. Have standard 1 inch margins
3. Use standard, legible fonts (Times New Roman, Arial, Helvetica, etc.)
4. Use 12 point size font
5. Be double-spaced, unless specified

Remember:
You should always save copies of your writing. It is your responsibility to produce another copy of your paper if needed. It is also not our fault if you “lose” your paper. To avoid major problems you should use Google and share files with us.

Really, Really Important to Remember!!
DO NOT rely on the teachers to print copies of your assignments for you. We do not have a printer in our classroom. Once class starts and an assignment is not printed, it is considered late. If students do not have access to a printer, the LRC is available for printing each morning before school and throughout the day. It is YOUR responsibility to bring printed materials to class on time.
CLASS PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

Together we will grade your class participation using the rubric below after each unit of study.

Grade Attendance
Advanced Student is never tardy and demonstrates regular attendance.
Proficient Student is rarely or never tardy and rarely misses class with no unexcused absences.
Basic Student is occasionally tardy and rarely misses class or has unexcused absences for class.
Minimal Student is occasionally tardy and/or has many absences, some unexcused absences for class.
Not Competent Student is often tardy and does not demonstrate regular attendance.

Grade Class Preparedness
A Student always is prepared for class, including having all necessary materials without returning to the locker and not using hallway passes, and homework fully completed.
P Student is prepared for class, usually having all necessary materials without returning to the locker, occasionally using hallway passes, and homework fully completed.
B Student is prepared for class, sometimes having all necessary materials without returning to the locker and using the hallway passes regularly, and homework sometimes fully completed.
M Student is usually not prepared for class, lacking all necessary materials, leaves class regularly, including completed homework.
NC Student is regularly not prepared for class and does not have necessary materials, including completed homework.

Grade Attentiveness in Class
A Student pays attention in class every day and follows directions without having to be reminded.
P Student almost always pays attention in class and follows directions without being reminded.
B Student regularly pays attention in class and follows directions without having to be reminded.
M Student sometimes pays attention in class and sometimes follows directions with reminders.
NC Student does not pay attention in class and does not follow directions regularly.

Grade Volunteerism
A Student volunteers every day. Comments and answers are always respectful and appropriate.
P Student volunteers almost every day. Comments and answers are respectful and appropriate.
B Student volunteers a few times a week. Comments and answers are usually respectful and appropriate.
M Student rarely volunteers. Comments and answers are not always respectful and appropriate.
NC Student does not volunteer. Comments and answers are not respectful and appropriate.

Grade Leadership and Teamwork
A Student always participates in all group activities; participation is always relevant to the subject studied in class. Student always acts as a leader, cooperates, and does his/her share of work in groups.
P Student almost always participates in all group activities; participation is almost always relevant to the subject studied in class. Student almost always acts as a leader, cooperates, and does his/her share of work in groups.
B Student participates in all group activities; participation is usually relevant to the subject studied in class. Student sometimes acts as a leader, cooperates, and does his/her share of work in groups.
M Student participates in all group activities; participation is not relevant to the subject studied in class. Student rarely acts as a leader, cooperates, and does his/her share of work in groups.
NC Student rarely participates in all group activities; participation is not relevant to the subject studied in class. Student does not act as a leader, cooperates, and does his/her share of work in groups.
* All major grades, including the final exam, must be turned in completed and in an acceptable manner to receive credit for the course. Failure to complete any major grades results in a failure of American Studies for the semester!

We strongly encourage parents and students to check grades on PowerSchool and Google Classroom for class assignments on a regular basis. Weekly calendars are also distributed to aid students.

The bottom portion should be signed by both parent and student and returned. Throughout the year we will be using a variety of resources to teach the course. One resource includes the use of a few R-rated movies and clips. Attached you will find a permission slip which also needs to be signed by both parent and student and also returned. Please complete the bottom half of this permission slip and have your son / daughter return it to us.

Sincerely,

Brian Turnbaugh                                      Joe Zeman
(630) 876-6593                                         (630) 876-6453
bturnbaugh@d94.org                                    jzeman@d94.org

I have read and understand the above rubrics for grading in American Studies.

Student Name _______________________________ Student ID # ________________

Parent Signature _______________________________ Date _____________________

Student Signature _______________________________ Date _____________________