SYLLABUS
American History 2019/20
Mr. Zeman
Email: jzeman@d94.org
Room: 197: Periods 2, 3, and 4/5
Room: 175: Periods 7/8 and 10
Office: 199: Periods 1, 6, and 9

Class Description and Objective:
The compelling question and 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 eight different sets of smaller compelling questions, which will consist of the units we will cover as follows:

- **Unit 1:** American Roots & Rebellion: What ideals most shaped America?
- **Unit 2:** Revolution & The 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:** Civil Rights: 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?

Course Expectations:
- Come to class on time
- Come prepared to class ([this includes a charged Chromebook!](#))
- Respect your peers
- Have an open mind

Required Materials:
- Binder ([designated specifically for American History](#))
- Loose leaf paper or notebook
- Pen or Pencil
- Highlighter
Textbooks Used:

- United States History by Emma J. Lapsansky-Werner, Peter B. Levy, Randy Roberts and Alan Taylor
- A People’s History of the United States: Teaching Edition Abridged by Howard Zinn

Attendance:
I expect you to be in class every day 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 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.

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

Assessments:
An assessment of your knowledge of the material will be given for each unit. Assessments 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. **Note that the final exam will be 10% of your grade.**
Grading Scale Breakdown:

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

Late Work:
I will accept late for a 20% per calendar day deduction.

Course Movie Permission Form:
I have selected a variety of short video clips to show in class. Historical films present students with excellent opportunities to visually comprehend significant events. The list of films I intend to show clips from include: Amistad, PBS: Lewis and Clark Expedition, Gangs of New York, The Godfather(II), PBS: Eyes on the Prize, Freedom Song, Malcolm X, We Shall Remain, El Norte, Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam. I also intend to show clips from various PBS and History Channel documentaries. With all the videos some scenes may depict graphic violence, foul language, and/or any other possible sensitive scenes.

I have read and understand the expectations and course requirements stated above. I have also read the attached movie permission form and will allow my child to view the selected films.

Parent/Guardian Signature:____________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name (please print):_____________________________________________________