

## **SYLLABUS: American History 2021/22**

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### **Class Description and Objective:**

The compelling question and goal of this class is: ***How does the past help us understand the present?***

In order to explore American History 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 five different sets of smaller compelling questions, which will consist of five units below:

- Unit 1: American Foundations, Rebellion, and Civil War: ***How do foundational events help us understand present issues?***
- Unit 2: Civil Rights: ***Why does social change happen?***
- Unit 3: Immigration: ***To what extent has the American Dream been an achievable reality?***
- Unit 4: Boom and Bust: ***To what extent has the American Dream been an achievable reality?***
- Unit 5: 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:

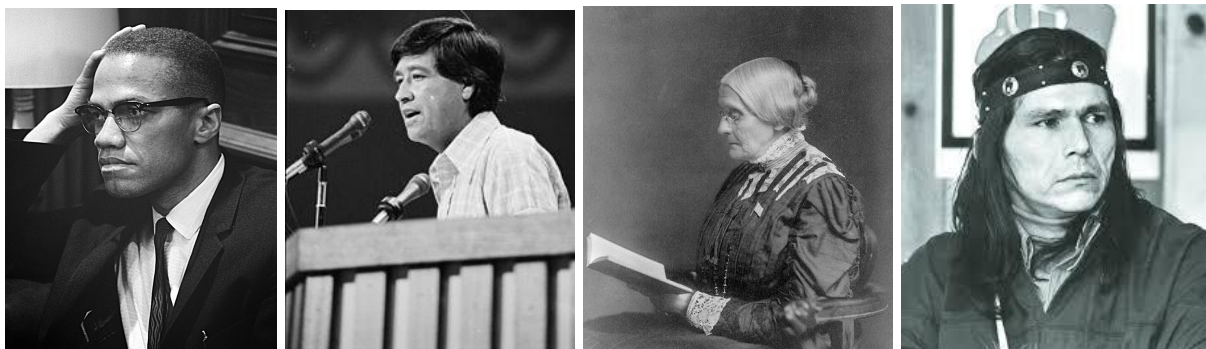
I expect you to be in class every day unless you have an excused absence. If your absence is justified then it is **your responsibility to find out what work you need to make-up.**

### Homework:

I do not assign homework. **However**, I do assign work to be done in class that we might talk about the following day. If you do not use your time wisely to complete an assignment in class you will have to finish on your own time before the due date.

### Class Participation/Work:

This will be an interactive class and will include short assignments, simulations, discussions, active reading, note-taking, and group activities. Therefore, your participation is crucial if you want to be successful and if you want the class to be enjoyable. **Participation will consist of 20% of your final grade.**



### Assessments:

An assessment of your knowledge of the material will be given for each unit. Assessments may consist of a multiple choice exam, essay, short answers, socratic seminar or a project. If you come to class, do your work, and review a bit, these assessments will be no problem. **Assessments will consist of 80% of your final 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 work as long as the work is within the current unit we are studying, or a week into the next unit. For example, I will not accept late work from Unit 2 during Unit 4.

**Assessment Retakes:**

Retakes on assessments will be available for all students. It is your responsibility to complete retakes within **three weeks** of the initial assessment. However, to qualify for a retake you must demonstrate to me that you have prepared and are ready to retake the assessment.

**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*, *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.

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**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):**\_\_\_\_\_