American History

PWHS – Green Avenue Campus

Course Description and Class Expectations

Mr. Iannacone

[Miannacone@wpsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:Miannacone@wpsd.k12.pa.us)

Matthewgavin.educatorpages.com

Course Description: This class is a survey course in American History from the formation of the West to the Vietnam War. Today’s world has been shaped by events and forces that had their beginnings long ago. In this class, we will discover how those events and forces have made us who we are and we will seek to gain a better understanding of the human experience.

Objectives: Students are expected to survey and understand major events and forces which have impacted the history of the United States, analyze various interpretations of American history, and develop critical thinking and analytical writing skills.

Text: The Americans, McDougal Littell. Textbooks are not to leave the classroom under any circumstances. Textbooks are very expensive. They are to be treated with care and respect. Textbooks are not to be written in or placed on the floor. *Heavy fines* will be imposed for any abuse of textbooks. To supplement textbooks, primary and secondary reading materials will be used as well as online sources and periodicals.

Behavioral Expectations:

Be prepared with your study guide, folder, and pencil/pen.

Arrive on time and be in assigned seat when the bell rings.

No electronic devices EVER!

No food, candy, gum, or drinks in class except water bottle.

Raise your hand and wait to be called on if you wish to speak.

Maintain academic honesty.

Minimize distractions – Sharpen pencil BEFORE class!

No horseplay or throwing objects. Keep hands to yourself.

No littering of classroom or writing on desks.

Treat others with kindness, courtesy, and respect.

Listen and participate in class. Be on task! Remain in seat until bell rings.

Required Supplies and Materials:

1. Each student is expected to purchase *two-pocket folders* to be used to keep class materials throughout the year. Folders will be checked regularly and graded. Study guides are kept in your folder.
2. Students also are required to purchase a *spiral notebook or composition book* to be used for class notes and journal entries.
3. You will need a plentiful supply of pencils and pens for daily use.

Grading: In general, you can expect to be evaluated in the following areas with these approximate percentages:

Tests and Quizzes – 40% Homework – 10%

Essays and Projects – 20% Class Work and Participation – 10%

Quarterly Assessments will be given at the end of each quarter and will count as 20% of your grade.

Homework: You can anticipate having homework most nights during the week. It will be collected at the START of class. You should study or organize your notes on nights that written homework is not assigned. Written homework must be completed neatly in black or blue ink on loose leaf paper. Homework that is incomplete, sub-standard quality, or otherwise unacceptable, may be rejected. Academic integrity is expected in the completion of homework. Cheaters will be held accountable and copying homework is cheating!

Constructed Response Questions: During each unit, students will answer constructed response questions. Constructed Response Questions are open-ended, short answer items which require you to analyze and respond to a “document” such as a reading passage, short story, political cartoon, graph, map, chart, photo, painting or official document such as the Constitution.

Tests and Quizzes: These will encompass all material in a unit and will include information from the reading, the study guide, and class notes. Students must make arrangements to make-up missed tests/quizzes on their time, not during class.

Make-up Work Due to Absence: Students who are absent from class have two ways of obtaining assignments from when they were absent. They can either look in the extra worksheet bin in the classroom or use my webpage to get the worksheets. All worksheets will be on the website. Make-up work and tests missed are YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

Detach this lower portion and return to your teacher with signatures below:

(10 point grade)

Signing below confirms that you understand the standards for this class:

Student Name(printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent cell or email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_