American History Purpose

The purpose of this two-semester class will be a reversed chronological study of the key events of people and major historical trends of U.S. History from the present backwards to 1900, (semester 1) and 1900 to the days prior to European exploration and colonization (semester 2).  This class is designed to introduce the student to the history of the United States from pre 1492 to the present.  Emphasis will be placed on the 20th Century, including the following topics: immigration, industrialization, Imperialism, the development of American Foreign Policy, the Changing U.S. Economy, and important political and domestic developments of this century as they were shaped by past global events. Students will develop an understanding of America’s role in world and local events.

**Motto** of this class is: learn the past, understand today, and change the future.

This course is intended for students who are interested in the ever-changing world in which we live today.  As our world becomes more complex, it is essential that we understand the different issues that affect us today and more importantly will affect us in the years to come.  This course will complement and reinforce what students have learned in World History, and previous social studies classes.  This class is designed to introduce students to a variety of perspectives concerning Contemporary Issues and Geography in the America today.  The focus of the course will be on the major issues affecting the America today from struggle in the Middle East to tension among interest groups within the United States; from environmental concerns to dealing with natural disasters; from political unrest and riots to humanitarian responsibilities as the wealthiest nation in the world.  These issues for the course will change as issues change in the world today.  The goals of the class will be:  1) for students to develop an understanding of contemporary issues in a historical, cultural and geographic context, 2) to increase the students’ ability to process and gather information from a variety of sources, 3) to develop a student’s ability to view contemporary issues from multiple perspectives, 4) to develop an awareness of the global nature of issues and relate to their concerns. 5) to connect historical events as the causes or contributing factors to current events.  Due to the changing nature of this course, there will be some use of the textbook, online materials, group discussion and collaborative projects.  Much of the content and related materials will be web based.

Grades for this class in our current Covid 19 era will come from a variety of options.

1. All students will receive a grade for daily attendance and participation. Each student is expected to check in online on the class web page. If a student cannot access the internet to get to the class webpage, students may check in through text remind, email, phone call or parent attestation form.
2. Students must choose either paper packets or online learning. Not both. Students who choose paper packets, must pick up the packet at the high school or pick up at the bus stop. Students who choose online learning must check in to the school web page for Mr. Harper, to find announcements and links to online learning tools. Students must acquire online access to a variety of sights for finding and submitting class work. The most important is having access to Canvas, which will have links to other sites like, Savvas, Peg, or Apex.
3. Packet assignments are due the week after they are issued. For example an assignment sent picked up on Monday should be returned by Friday of that week. Grading paper packets requires time to disinfect, sort, deliver and grade. Grades will appear no sooner than 1 week after they have been returned.
4. Online assignments will be due by 11:59 on the due date. Late assignments are worth ½ credit and will only be accepted up until the end of the unit in which they were assigned. Late work will not be accepted with in 3 days of the end of a quarter. All online assignments must be submitted through and uploaded to Canvas unless other arrangements are preapproved. Any assignment submitted through any other means, including email, may not be counted as received.
5. Official grades will be reported though power school. If an assignment is missing in power school it will be marked as incomplete and receive 0 points.
6. Most daily assignment are worth 10 points. Quizzes are usually worth 10 points. Binder checks and daily planners are worth 10 points. Tests, essays and large presentations are worth 50 points.

Students are responsible to; check the class web page daily for announcements and important documents, check in for attendance on the class webpage, keep track of their own passwords and log in information, know when assignments are due and submit them on time, and ask for help when they need help. I am happy to help in any way I can. If the teacher doesn’t know that you don’t know something, nothing changes.