US HISTORY

**Teacher:** Mr. Alex Forsthoff (Room C205)

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**Course Description:** This course examines the cultural, political, and economic events and circumstances that have shaped the United States from Reconstruction to the present. We will interpret these historical factors to better understand who we are today and why. It is through an adequate understanding of our nation’s history that we can hope to shape a better future. We will also learn how to be historical thinkers through inquiry, reading, writing, and analyzing primary and secondary source documents.

**Supplies Needed:** (1) One inch 3 ring binder. This notebook or binder will be used for government class only. Notebooks need to be stored somewhere other than this classroom. In your notebook you need loose leaf notebook paper.

**Overview of Units:**

* Reconstruction
* Progressive Era
* Heading West
* Progressive Era
* WWI
* Roaring 20’s
* The Great Depression
* WWII
* Cold War
* Change is Coming
* The 60’s
* Modern US

**Classroom Expectations:**

* Students will arrive prepared to learn with necessary materials to do so. Bring your notebook every day as well as a pencil, pen, homework, and any other materials.
* Every day there will be directions on the board when you walk into this class. My expectation is that you begin working on any bellwork, have any required materials out, and are ready to learn when the bell rings.
* Students ride the Respect P.O.N.Y. (Respect Property, Others, Nature, and Yourselves)
* Students abide by the classroom behavior rules created during the first week of class that will be signed by all students. You will set the majority of the expectations in this classroom. When you break these expectations you are letting yourself down.
* Students participate professionally in all activities during class time. This is social studies; you will be social. PLEASE talk/discuss/share with your peers when it is appropriate. Acknowledge when talking/discussing/sharing with your peers is not appropriate.

**What You Can Expect from Me:**

* I will be honest, fair, and consistent. This applies to all aspects of my classroom including grading, conversation, and discussion.
* I am serious about class time, and I will not waste it. I will not tolerate anyone else wasting it. I have a job and you have a job, let’s do them both professionally.
* I believe that students come first. My passion for US History, and social studies, pales in comparison to my passion for working with people. I am available any time if you have questions, issues, concerns, or are looking for a good conversation.
* I care more about who you are as a person when you walk out of these doors than what content you know. Content is important, and to truly think critically you need to understand the inner workings and techniques of historians, but who you are as a person means much more to me than test scores.

**Absent/Late Work:**

* If you are absent, check my website first to find any assignments or documents that you will have to make up. DO NOT ASK ME WHAT YOU MISSED BEFORE YOU CHECK THE WEBSITE! If you have questions after checking the website, feel free to come talk to me.
* You will have one school day for every day absent to turn in make-up work. (School Policy)
* There will be a %20 deduction on late work if it is turned in within 1 week of the due date. After 1 week late work will be worth %50 of the original grade. If you contact me with a valid reason that you are unable to complete the work on time we can make arrangements. (Computer problems, my dog ate my homework, I forgot it at home, etc. will not fly!)
* NEW THIS YEAR: You must turn in any late or absent work into the absent/late work basket. You must also label your work as either late or absent. If you turn it in to your normal turn in basket, or it is not labeled, it will not be graded.

**Chromebook Policy:**

* I have a brand new Chromebook cart this year and it is staying in my room only! No switching Chromebooks with other teachers means that you will all be assigned a Chromebook number. It is your responsibility to declare any damage, vandalism, or any other negative conditions of the Chromebooks at the beginning of class. If you do not, and the following user does, you are responsible for the damages as the technology use form states. Always plug them in when done. TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT!

**Cell Phone Policy:**

* As a school we have adopted a new cell phone policy. It will apply in my classroom as it will in all of your others. At the front of the classroom will be a pocket holder which you will put your phone in at the beginning of class. Please place them on airplane mode or silence them. These pockets are numbered. Use the same number as your Chromebook assignment. This is to protect you from theft and to ensure that I know your phone is in the pocket.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Once a parent/guardian has seen this syllabus, and the student fully understands the class policies, please sign. This will be the first document in the student’s class notebook, and will be required to receive credit on the first notebook check.

Parent Signature:

Student Signature:

Date: