



“Those who don’t study history are doomed to repeat it. Yet those who *do* study history are doomed to stand by helplessly while everyone else repeats it.”

U.S. History

WITH MRS SPENCER

This is the final installment of US history for your high school career, and as such is designed to focus on the development of the US following the Civil War. This means that we will only briefly review the early years and founding documents of the nation before moving on to an in-depth study of the developments and interpretations of the United States from the 20th century to today. As we study the major events and movements of US history, you should gain a better understanding of the complex issues and interactions that have led us to the modern American nation. During the first

| <u>Unit</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Major Concepts & Topics</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | American Beginnings | American Revolution, creation of the Constitution & founding documents |
| 2 | Expansion & Manifest Destiny | Territorial expansion & population growth, leading to rising conflict |
| 3 | Civil War & Reconstruction | Secession, the war, emancipation & the 14th Amendment, reconstructing the south |
| 4 | Transforming the Nation | Second industrial revolution, western frontier, urbanization, the Gilded Age |
| 5 | Becoming a World Power | Progressive movement & World War I |

Grades

- Academic Grading**

My philosophy is that grades are earned by students and not given by teachers. I will give you everything you need in order to succeed. It will be your choice and work that determines how successful you will be.

Term grades will consist of :

- ⇒ Assignments 30%
- ⇒ Projects 25% (including essays & portfolios)
- ⇒ Quizzes & Tests 25%
- ⇒ Participation 20%

- Citizenship Grading**

Because I think being an active and engaged citizen in whatever community you are a part of, your citizenship grade can also affect your academic grade. At the beginning of each quarter you'll have 25/25 points for participation. You can gain citizenship points for contributing to a positive classroom experience. However, you can also lose citizenship points for violating course policies/procedures, being tardy to class, or having unexcused absences

Deductions: 1 point per tardy, 3 points per unexcused absence, all other points to be determined by Mrs. Spencer & situation.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

-Portfolio
- 3-ring binder (usually 1-1.5 inch works best)
- 5 dividers (can be either bought or made)
-Daily Stuff.....
- Writing instrument of choice (pencil or pen)
- Lined paper
- Folder for homework & handouts
- 4 highlighters in different colors (may use colored pencils but not pens)

CONTACT ME

- In person: Tuesday–Friday from 2:40-3:10 or by appointment
- Email: I usually respond to emails within 24hrs nspencer@dsmail.net



Expectations

1. Show **RESPECT** to Mrs. Spencer, your classmates, yourself, and the facility. This includes refraining from profanity, racist or sexist comments, and any damaging behavior. In addition, respect means being **AWAKE**, **ALERT**, and **ON TIME**.
2. Come **PREPARED** to class every day. This goes beyond just having the required materials, but also includes having completed assignments and being ready to participate in class activities and discussions.
3. I recognize that cell phones and electronic devices are all around us, and occasionally you will be permitted to use them for both academic and even occasionally entertainment purposes. However, I do expect that they remain **SILENCED** and **OUT OF HAND**. If I catch you with it, I have a “1...2...3...it’s out” policy.
4. Fair Warning: I have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy for plagiarism and cheating. This means that if I catch you at it you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment, your parents will be notified, and disciplinary actions may be taken... no questions asked.

“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history” - Aldus Huxley

Grading Scale

| | |
|----|--------------|
| A | 92% & above |
| A- | 90–91% |
| B+ | 88–89% |
| B | 82–87% |
| B- | 80–81% |
| C+ | 78–79% |
| C | 72–77% |
| C- | 70–71% |
| D+ | 68–69% |
| D | 62–67% |
| D- | 60–61% |
| F | 59% & below |
| | |
| H | 25+ points |
| S | 16-24 points |
| N | 11-15 points |
| U | 0-10 points |

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Absences & Make Up Work

As mature students seeking a college preparation atmosphere, it is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain any notes and handouts you may have missed due to absences as well as to make up any missed work or assessments. Per school policy, you have **FIVE DAYS** to make up any assignment or assessment due to an **EXCUSED** absence.

Occasional absences are unavoidable, however, if you are absent for more than 2 classes in succession it is your responsibility to contact me so that we can work to keep you as caught up as possible (for both our benefit).

When returning from an absence, you can find what you missed by checking the **ABSENT WORK BIN**. In the folder for your class period you should find a set of handouts for everything you missed along with a cover sheet with instructions for completing work and describing any in-class activities or assessments that must be made up. Use the **MAKE-UP SIGN-UP** to notify me of when you’ll be coming in to take care of these in-class items. Lastly, make sure that any assignments that were due the day you missed are turned in **THAT DAY** to avoid late penalties.

Missing & Late Work

If you cannot turn in your homework for any reason other than absence, you will be required to fill out a **PINK SLIP** and turn it in in place of your assignment. This will be collected and filed. Failure to do so will result in an automatic **50% DEDUCTION** on the assignment.

Regardless, you may (and are encouraged to) turn in your homework late, which you can do at any point—keeping in mind that the later it is the less points it will be worth. However, assignments due before midterm will not be scored after midterm has passed, and pay attention for my ‘**DROP DEAD**’ date at the end of each term.

Extra Credit

I offer extra credit every term. All possible projects & instructions are listed on my website. Extra credit is entirely optional, but encouraged for those who may be looking to help their grades. However, if you have more than 3 **MISSING** assignments or