**United States History**

**Mrs. Hamburger**

**Class Syllabus 2016-2017**

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COURSE INFORMATION:

U.S. History is a yearlong survey course. During the year, students will explore the major events, people, and themes of U.S. History. Successful completion for U.S. History is required for graduation.

TEXTS AND READINGS:

Danzer, Klor de Alva, Krieger, et al. The Americans. New York: McDougal Littell, 2012.

Additional handouts and online sources will supplement text readings.

TEACHING METHODS:

A wide variety of teaching methods will be used in this class including lectures, videos, group activities, readings, simulations, projects (individual and group), writing, and exams. Thoughtful, completed homework is essential to student success in this class. The expectations and workload is more significant than at the middle school level.

ACADEMIC SKILLS:

Students will develop skills necessary for academic success which will include the areas of time-management, analytical thinking, note-taking, writing, research skills, and more.

GRADING:

Grades are calculated using a total point system and determined by student performance on an assortment of academic tasks. This may include unit exams, cumulative semester finals, in-class assignments, homework assignments, individual and group projects, essays, seminars, and more.

Student grades are calculated according to the traditional scale.

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0-59 F

CLASS RULES:

1. Bring your U.S. History notebook/paper and binder to class EVERY DAY.

2. Be on time and ready to work when the bell rings.

3. Respect diversity: name-calling, racism, sexism, homophobia, or any other displays of intolerance will not be accepted.

4. Be prepared to do your best in class each day.

5. Show respect for yourself, each other, the teacher, and the classroom. Consequences for violating the rules include owing time, behavior contracts, parent conferences, and referral to student relations.

CLASS POLICIES:

1. Your U.S. History notebook will be used for all class notes, handouts, class work, projects, and homework assignments, etc. in U.S. History class. It will enable you not only to keep track of all your materials for U.S. History, but to process information in a creative, independent way. It is required that you have the notebook with you every day in class.

\*You will be very relieved to have kept a notebook all year, when the time comes to begin reviewing for the unit exams and finals.

2. Attendance/Absences/Make-Up Work: Attendance is required every day. It is very difficult to keep up with the work involved in this class if you are absent, so attend class everyday unless you are ill or have a family emergency. Your presence in class is essential. If you MUST miss class due to illness or other circumstances beyond your control, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out which assignments you missed, to get the handouts, and to borrow and copy the class notes for the day(s) you were absent. You can start finding out what you missed on the course website. It is the responsibility of the student or parent to request and arrange to obtain make-up work no later than the second school day after returning to class or school from the absence.

Students shall be given at least the same number of days they were absent to make up assignments. The make-up period begins on the next school day following the absence(s). Students are eligible to receive full credit for make-up work completed and submitted by dates and times established in this policy. Credit may be reduced for in-class or group activities missed, such as labs, presentations, or assessments which are not readily able to be completed with comparable make-up assignments and/or without the validity of the assignment being compromised.

3. Late Work Policy: Late work is better than no work at all. Late work will be accepted ONLY up to ONE day late for a 20% penalty off the grade. If absent the day an assignment is due, students are expected to submit assignments the day they return to school. Students absent the day of an exam will be given an alternative exam and are required to make up the missed exam the day they return to school. If you do not understand an assignment, come and see me for help BEFORE it is due.

4. Tardiness: Tardiness is not tolerated, everyone has a moment, however, taking advantage of tardiness shows disrespect to the instructor and the rest of the class. If you are tardy, do not expect me to fill you in on what you missed or allow you to make up any activities missed due to tardiness.

5. Cellphones, IPods, etc.: Turn them off and put them away, or I will take it to your dean where you have to pick it up at the end of the day.

6. No food or drink is allowed in the classroom unless told otherwise. Water in a closed container is the exception.

7. Basic proper conduct is expected which includes respect and courtesy to others and their property.

8. Plagiarism/Cheating: Cheating and academic dishonesty is never tolerated at Cherry Creek High School. Plagiarism is included, which is copying or accepting another individual’s work without properly acknowledging, or citing, the source. If a student has been academically dishonest, she/he will receive no credit for the assignment and will be reported to the dean for further action. More information on plagiarism and academic dishonesty can be found in the Bear Facts Handbook on page 54. If you are unsure about what is or is not considered plagiarism, please ask myself, another teacher, or a librarian. It is always best to be safe!

9. Accommodations: I encourage students with specific learning needs to discuss with me, during my office hours, appropriate accommodations that might be helpful to them.

10. Extra Credit: While extra credit does not replace effort on required assignments, I do believe extra work, at times, merits extra points. There will be one movie night per semester with a write-up (time, location, and assignment to be determined), or if you are unable to attend, you may do an alternative assignment given (to be determined). Extra Credit gives 20 points to your semester grade.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS:

• Reading! There is NO substitute for reading. All studies show that truly talented and gifted students read and read well. And the one single ingredient to remedy low grades and low performance is to read. You are expected to take notes on what you read.

• Be prepared to THINK! We will discuss topics that may be new and different. Please keep an open mind. You do not have to agree with what you read and hear, but you will need to think historically.

• Don’t freak out! If there is any sort of problem, talk to me, and we will find a way to fairly improve the situation.

• Practice, practice, practice! You will be learning new skills in writing and analysis. These skills will help you in all your future academic endeavors. Do all of your assigned work to the best of your ability. Take feedback and learn from your mistakes.

• Complete all assignments! Getting a low grade is always better than a big 0.

• Come in for extra help! I am available for help as long as you express the need for it.

It is your responsibility to frequently check the class website for discussion questions, homework, class readings and other class information. All of this information can be found on my class site:

<http://mshamburgercchs.weebly.com>

4 HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS:

Skill 1: Chronological Reasoning

* Historical causation
* Patterns of continuity and change over time
* Periodization

Skill 2: Comparison and Contextualization

* Comparison
* Contextualization

Skill 3: Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence

* Historical argumentation
* Appropriate use of relevant historical evidence

Skill 4: Historical Interpretation and Synthesis

* Interpretation
* Synthesis

Course Unit Outline

1. The Civil War and Reconstruction
2. The Civil Rights Movement
3. Urbanization and Industrialization
4. Imperialism and WWI
5. The 1920s, The Great Depression, and The New Deal
6. WWII
7. 1950s-1960s Culture
8. The Cold War
9. 1980s-present
10. Globalization

I have read and discussed Mrs. Hamburger’s classroom expectations with my parent/guardian:

Student Name (Please Print)

Student Signature

I have read and discussed Mrs. Hamburger’s classroom expectations with my daughter/son

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature