

American History I: The Founding Principles

Ms. Zahir Room TM20

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Textbook: Kennedy, David M. et al. *The American Pageant* (13th Edition)

Additional Readings: Zinn, Howard. "*A People's History of the United States.*"

(online) <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/zinnapeopleshistory.html>, Kennedy, David M. et al.

The American Spirit (2006,) *Internet Modern History Sourcebook* (Fordham University)

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>

Requirements: All students must obtain a composition notebook for notes, instructional activities, and supplemental resources. If that is not possible, please have your parent contact me via email or phone.

Course Description: American History: The Founding Principle I is an intensive course that will begin with the European exploration of the new world through Reconstruction. Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States from European exploration and colonial settlement to the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. Students will learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to the development of colonial America and the outbreak of the American Revolution as well as the consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution.

The curriculum guidelines, content, and pace of the class is set by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction:

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/intellectual-disabilities/ocs/new-standards/american-history-1.pdf>

Course Format: The course will be a combination of lecture, teacher role play, service learning projects, and seminar (class discussion) formats. Students will be take notes, discuss important readings relating to the themes of United States History, as well as analyzing primary and secondary sources (i.e. speeches, photographs, maps, charts, articles, etc.) Students will be expected to read outside of class, so that the bulk of class time will be availed for questions and discussion. *Readings should be done prior to class.*

Course Expectations: Your presence in the classroom is fundamental to your success in the class! To this end, do not be late or absent, and make arrangements to avoid conflicts involving this class with appointments and other meetings.

While homework assignments will vary throughout the course in terms of scope and rigor, all students are responsible for completing assignments on the assigned due date. If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining class notes and completing any missed work. Students with excused absences may complete any missed work for full credit in accordance with school policy. **Furthermore, any assignment that has an extended due date is due on the assigned day, regardless of the reason for absence.**

Exams: Exams will mirror the summative assessment, which is a combination of primary and secondary sources based multiple-choice questions.

Exit tickets will be given daily after the first week with sample questions from the summative. This is designed to give students frequent experience with the types of multiple-choice questions that appear on the Final Summative. Frequent assessments also ensure that students read the textbook and supplementary readings, consistently check for understanding, and take notes that are thorough and well organized.

Quizzes: Quizzes may range from multiple choice, short responses, matching, or true or false. They are designed to review essential material that students must master if they are going to succeed in the class.

Homework: Homework will be given on case by case basis depending on the class level of understanding regarding particular concepts.

Primary Document Reading Assignments: All students will be required to analyze and reflect on primary documents (speeches, photographs, cartoons, maps, charts, works of art) in preparation for the NC Summative.

Classroom activities: Activities will include projects, warm ups, exit tickets, interactive games, and many classroom discussion. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and participate effectively in class activities. Many class sessions are seminars. In order for seminars to work, student preparation and participation is critical.

Policies and Procedures:

- Restroom: 10/10
 - Students do not have access to the restrooms during the first and last 10 minutes of class. This is due to the opportunity of utilizing the bathroom during period transitions. During class, 2 passes are allotted on first come, first serve basis. Sign the bathroom log before and after each visit.

- According to HPC Policy, you will be allotted 3 passes for the semester. Please use them wisely or contact me if you have any medical needs that require attention.
- Absences: If you are absent, there will be a marked bin in the classroom to retrieve any documents missed that day. If your absence is excused, you will not miss points for your daily participation grade.
 - If you have a exit ticket that is missed, you have 2 class days by the end of the Warm-Up to submit it.
- Cell Phone and Electronic Devices Etiquette
 - Technology is a useful tool for learning *when used appropriately*.
 - DO:
 - For learning games
 - For research
 - For photography/videography of academic presentation and interactions
 - Turn your phone over and place it in the corner of your desk (this will reduce your temptation to continuously check your phone).
 - DON'Ts
 - Using social media or other applications sites to pass time
 - Taking photos/videos without permission of the subject
 - Texting while class is going on
 - Headphones are allowed **during independent time only**. Abuse of the privilege will result in no headphones for the entire class.
 - Cell phones are prohibited during instructional time, unless otherwise noted.
 - Consequences are as follows:
 1. Verbal Warning
 2. Phone is bagged, and taped on desk.
 3. Parent Phone Call
 - If a parent/guardian needs to contact you, please call the school at **(336) 819-2825**
- Food/Drink
 - To avoid critters and other unwanted visitors, there will be no food or drinks permitted unless otherwise acknowledged and with the exception of water bottles.

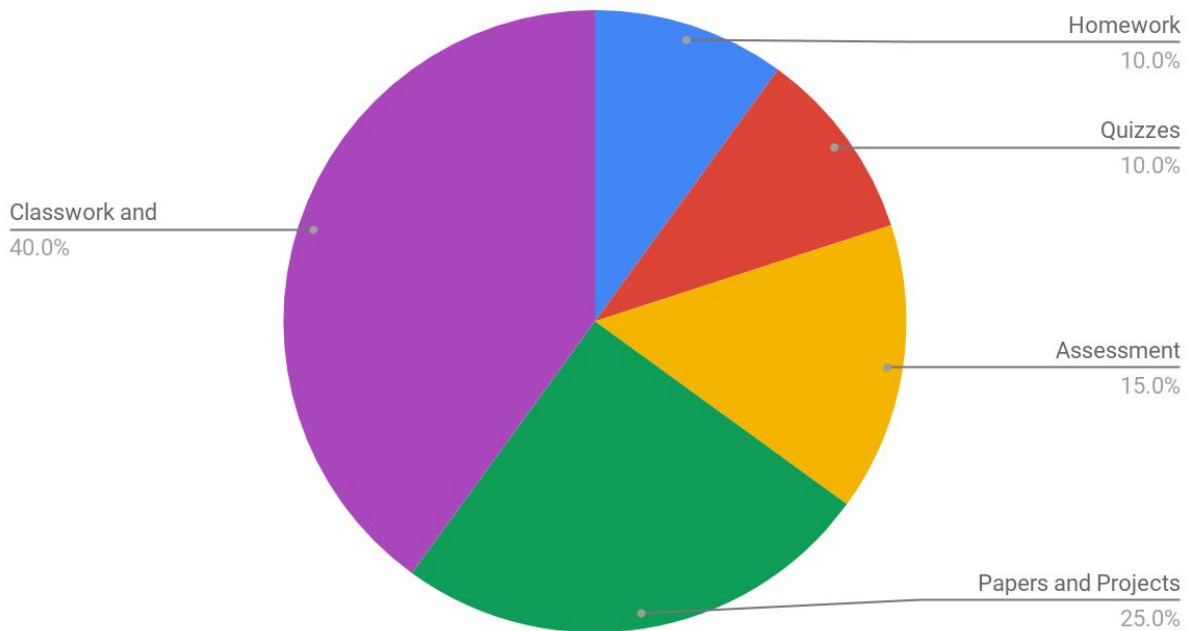
Non-Negotiables

These are actions displayed in the classroom that will result to higher tiers of consequences in order to maintain a positive learning environment. Consider this as your verbal warning.

- Fighting
- Profanity

- Under the Influence of any Kind
- Bullying
- Any form of inappropriate phrases that threaten or harm another

Grading



Classwork and Participation

- Truth to Power Mondays
 - On Mondays, we will infuse various instruction to connect students with interdisciplinary studies to increase level of understandings in History. This also includes self-reflection, teaching tolerance, compassion, and strengthening social and emotional intelligence.
- What's Going On Fridays
 - Every Friday students will report a summary of current events going on locally, nationally, and globally. This is an opportunity to practice oral communication and presentation skills while developing a greater sense of knowledge of our world today.
- Unit Book Checks

- After each unit, notebook checks will be administered to ensure the participation and engagement of each student in the classroom. If you are absent during a particular unit, you will have until notebook check,

Homework

- Assignments will be determined on the unit covered and will be administered as need based regarding thematic understanding and progress of classwork or papers/projects.

Assessments/Quizzes

- A midterm grade will be administered similar to the NC Summative required of you to take at the end of the semester. This is to help you become familiar with the test and ensure a higher rate of you passing.
- Quizzes will be given as a benchmark to assess skill and content mastery. This may be administered in various ways such as interactive games, quizlet, and more.

Papers and Projects

- **Service Learning Projects (SLP)** is a teaching and **learning** strategy that integrates meaningful community **service** with instruction and reflection to enrich the **learning** experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.
 - As an active citizen and scholar, you are responsible for the future of our world. As my alma mater states, we “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve!”
- **Essays:** Writing is an infinite process necessary in life and the only way we improve is by strengthening our skills! We will engage in the writing process together from the first pre writing stage to the final draft on a topic covered in this course. Do not focus on where you are at with your writing, but where you would like to improve.

By signing below, you adhere to uphold Bison Pride, classroom community values, your best effort, and the policies/procedures listed above. I look forward to our time together!

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____