

I. Course Overview

In this class, we will cover what happened from the discovery of America to its reconstruction, following the Civil War. There will be some elements that you encountered in 5th grade social studies, as well as new themes and topics. Our focus will not solely be on history, but will include economics, geography and government as well.

II. Philosophy

Research shows that people learn in different ways. Therefore, I try to incorporate as many different methods into my teaching as I can. I enjoy hands-on, creative learning. I strive to make history fun. In order to do so, I use projects, games, presentations, and debates. While this breeds excitement, it can also create chaos. All of my activities will have detailed instructions in order to prevent such chaos. As a result, students that can follow instructions should be able to have an enjoyable experience in my class. If you cannot follow instructions, we might have to employ less exciting tactics.

III. Respect

I respect each and every one of my students. I expect my students to follow suit. There may be occasions when someone says something contrary to what you believe. That does not give you the right, however, to cut them off or belittle them. My classroom will be a safe environment to pose questions and give opinions. A culture of respect is crucial to ensure such an environment.

IV. Grades

A part of each student's grade in this class will be based on effort. In the adult world, hard work and dedication is rewarded. Laziness and apathy are frowned upon. My class will be a small version of that. For some assignments, I will grade based on completion, while others may be checked for accuracy. If one tries hard, he/she should do fine.

V. Extra-Credit

Extra-credit may be given to a student who has turned in all assignments and still wants to improve his/her grade. I will not, however, award extra-credit at the last minute or to a person who has not turned in assignments on a regular basis.

VI. ProgressBook

We keep our grades up to date and ask that our students are proactive and make use of ProgressBook to check for missing work and falling grades. If at any point you lose your username or password, please let me know and I can reset it.

VII. History Binder

You will keep most every handout in your history binder (boardwork, notes, worksheets, etc.) The good news is that there is a place where it can be kept **IN MY CLASSROOM**. If you want to keep it with you, make sure that you bring it to class **EVERY DAY!**

VIII. Google Classroom

We will be submitting our work, accessing materials, and posting comments by using Google Classroom. The best thing about it...you only have to use your current Google username and password. During the first week of school, you will acquire access to my Google Classroom.

IX. Absent Work

If you miss one of my class periods, be it for illness, vacation, field trip, etc., all that you will need can be found on Google Classroom. With that being said, you don't **NEED** to check in with me about an absence, but you do **NEED** to complete what is posted.