**UNITED STATE HONORS HISTORY**

**Syllabus 2013-2014**

Welcome to 11th grade United States Honors History. This course is an intense study of the United States from 1896 – present. This course will include the Presidents and all major events of the 20th Century.

Requirements:

1. This course will consist of lectures, independent readings, partner work, student presentations, research papers , discussions and debates, DBQs and current events.
2. All tests will include short answers and/or essays.
3. Other assessments will include quizzes, HW assignments, in class writing assignments, summer work.
4. There is one term paper due in the first semester. Along with other reading assignments the other book used in this class is Thirteen Days provided for the students. There will be other supplementary readings throughout the year.
5. There will be a Mid Term and Final that will both have an essay and/or short answers.
6. Class participation and writing are important aspects of the Honors Course.
7. Power point notes will be used and accessible through the teacher website.

GRADING SYSTEM: This course is a weighted class points will be assigned for all assignments, tests, projects etc. and will be reflected at the end of each marking period. The total number of points per marking period will vary.

HW assignments will be graded for correct answers not just completion. Many HW assignments will be reflected in assessments.

**Rules:**

All students are expected to adhere to school rules and policies as described in the student handbook. All students are expected to follow established classroom rules as well.

**1a. Respect me as the teacher.** This is **not** a democracy. I am the dictator, but a benevolent one. If you feel I am unfair, please come and air your grievance with me. I will hear you out and I will not hold it against you.

**1b.** **Respect one another.** Listen when others are talking and never ridicule someone’s ideas. We will be discussing some controversial subjects, and everyone’s opinion is valid.

**1c. Respect the classroom:** Do not write on the desks. Put away all materials you used in class and clean around your desk before leaving the classroom.

1. **Come to class prepared**. Please bring your notebook to class with you everyday. Do your homework so that your brain is also prepared. Sharpen pencils BEFORE class starts.
2. **Listen and follow instructions the first time they are given.**
3. **NO PERSONAL GROOMING in class**. If you choose to break this rule, your grooming items will be confiscated and not returned.

**Disturbing and distracting devices**

As per school policy, the use of cell phones, I-pods, and MP3 players is not allowed during class time. I do not want to see them or hear them. If you have a cell phone, it should be silenced during class time. If you are using a distracting device during class, you will be asked to give it to me. I will take the device and place it in my locked closet and give you a numbered card. When class is over, I will exchange the card for your phone. This will be the procedure for the first 2 offenses. Should there be a 3rd offense, I will keep your phone until the end of the day. If it happens a 4th time, your parent will notified and you will be referred to the front office.

**Entering and exiting procedures**

At the end of class, I will dismiss you, not the bell. Recondition yourselves.

**Homework**

Homework must be turned in on time. Assignments must be turned in to the designated homework tray at the **beginning** of class. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED unless you have an **excused** absence. Long term projects and papers must be turned in on time- NO EXCEPTIONS- as per student handbook. If you are going to be absent on the day a project/paper is due, turn it in early or send it with a fellow student or a parent.

**Absences and Tardies**

Check the homework board for missed assignments. Late assignments as a result of excused absences will be accepted following guidelines in student handbook. Remember, you have the same number of days to make up an assignment as you are absent.

Quizzes and tests must be made up within **three** days of an absence. Make an appointment with me on the day you return to class to make up quizzes and tests. Be sure to turn in your excuse to the office so you will be allowed to make up the work.

If aware ahead of time of an upcoming absence, get assignment beforehand to avoid falling behind.

If tardy, student will stay after class for the first 4 offenses. On the 5th offense, student will be referred to the office.

**Leaving the Classroom**

Leaving the classroom is strongly discouraged. To promote staying in class, I will give each of you 2 tickets for each grading period. Put your NAME on the back of each in pen. These can be used as a free pass to the restroom, no penalty incurred. If you do not use your tickets, you will receive 10 extra credit points at the end of each grading period for each ticket. Please keep these in your notebook so you have them when you need them. If you use your tickets before the end of the grading period and you need to leave the room, you will have to stay after class for the same amount of time you are gone.

These tickets can also be used to give you **one extra day** to turn in an assignment. They cannot be used to give you extra time on long-term projects/assignments, however (those in which you have more than three days to complete). Attach a ticket to the late assignment to receive the grace period. Again, if you do not use them for either purpose, you have 10 extra credit points at the end of the grading period.