 US History 2017/2018 

Mr. Wilson Phone: 630-636-2413

Email: kwilson03@sd308.org

**Course Introduction**

Welcome to United States History! George Washington, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Adolf Hitler, to list a few, are some of the names that many of us have heard of. But what do we know about them? Travel back in time to see what made these people such iconic figures and how they impacted the world in which we live! We all have a common past that we share which begins with the emergence of the human species. During this course we will be studying man’s journey throughout time and his transition from the discovery of America through the modern times of the 2000s.

Why study United States History? The world we live in today comes from this time period of 1492 A.D. to present day. This is the period when civilizations shaped all subsequent eras of history; specifically the 20th century. Many of the world’s most fundamental inventions, discoveries, institutions, and techniques developed during this time period, as well as values that continue to influence our lives today. “History is where the past comes to life” and where we are supposed to learn from the past eras and events.

**\*\*Required Materials\*\***

* A folder/binder for taking notes and organizing course materials (this needs to be ONLY for this class)
* Notebook (ONLY for this class)
* Writing utensils – Blue/Black pens, No. 2 pencils, a red pen for grading quizzes
* Access to the internet for supplementary readings, class website, research, etc. (Accommodations can be made)
* Access to a computer and printer for typing and printing assignments. (Accommodations can be made)

**Required Text**

* ”The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century” Book (as supplied by school)
* Additional supplementary readings will be assigned by the instructor as necessary.
* An online copy of the book can be found at the following link <http://www.mrlocke.com/US_History/book.html>

**Class Announcements and Reminders**

Homework and general classroom/school announcements will be posted on my professional Twitter account for students to follow. They can follow @MisterWilson16.

I will also use  remind (formerly Remind101) for announcements.  Remind is a service which allows me to setup a class account and then for the members of the class to sign up to receive text messages or emails from me (you will not know my number and I will not know your number through this service; also I can only send out messages, not receive responses). If you would like to receive reminders for this class, please follow these directions:

1. Sign up at this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/kwilsonus>, OR
2. Text @kwilsonus this number: 81010.

If neither of the above works for you, please talk to Mr. Wilson and he’ll help you set up reminders for this class.

**Course Expectations and Rules**

In order for the classroom to function in a safe and respectable manner for everyone:

**Students will agree to:**

* Respect all other classmates (listen to and respect others’ opinions)
* Respect the instructor & course material
* Show up on time, focused, with the required materials and ready to participate in class
* Obey all school rules and policies laid out in the OHS Student Handbook
* Help create a safe and fun learning environment!

**Mr. Wilson will agree to:**

* Respect everyone as both a student and a person
* Give support and help to all students that need and request it
* Return all assignments in a timely manner
* Grade all assignments fairly and in an unbiased manner

**Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones are a useful tool in today’s society, however, they are not always helpful in a classroom environment where student participation and attention is required to adequately learn and retain all information that is presented. Because of this, cell phones are to be out of sight unless told otherwise in order to avoid becoming a distraction. If cellphones begin to become a problem, the student and I will have a conversation together to address the issue.

**Grading Policies**

*Grades in this course will be based off of the following assignments:*

**GRADES**

1. **40%= Formative Assessments (group work, classwork, etc.)**
2. **50%=Summative Assessments (projects, tests, quizzes, etc.)**
3. **10%= Final Exam**

**100 – 90 = A 89 – 80 = B 79 – 79 = C 69 – 60 = D 59 or below = F**

**Late Work Policy:** All assignments are due on the date specified by the instructor. However, I understand that things do happen and as such, I will accept late work up to a certain point for each unit for full credit, after that I won’t accept it at all. *All late work for each unit MUST be turned in on a date specified by the teacher for that unit (normally the day after a Unit Test).* **No late work for the specified unit will be accepted after such a date is posted by the teacher.**

**Make-up Work/Absent Policy:** If you know that you are going to miss class on a certain day, it is your responsibility to meet with me or email me to discuss what assignments you will miss and when they are to be turned in upon your return. *If you are absent*, then you will get the amount of days you were absent to turn in any missing assignments without penalty. Please, note that this policy can be modified as needed based on discussions between Mr. Wilson and the student affected.

**Missed Tests/Exams:** Students should be prepared to take a missed test/exam on the day they return to school or on an arranged day set up with the teacher.

**Extra Credit Policy:** There will be no individual opportunities for extra credit. However, I may offer opportunities to the whole class at my own discretion. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to: outside class meetings, attendance at a class related activity, CNN Student News Quizzes, Current Event articles, etc.

**Headphones/Ear Buds/Hoodies/Hats:** Over-the-ear headphones are prohibited. They should not be brought into the classroom. Ear buds or other small/low profile headphones can be kept in a pocket or purse as long as they are not used during the class period, unless given teacher permission. The School Dress Code according to the student handbook will be followed at all times regarding hoodies and other hats/caps.

**Syllabus and Video Sign-off Sheet**

**A Note about Movies in U.S. History:**

While I think “History vs. Hollywood” is one of the more rewarding and impactful ways of “doing” history, I have to continually measure the positive impact against the amount of class time used. While we will watch some full movies, most movies shown may only be in clips or segments. However, I also use a large amount of academically viable documentary videos, as well. A vast majority of these have been broadcast on television and so are considered mainstream and appropriate.

With that said, many social studies classes engage in material that is always in a state of conflict. Modern politics and a revision of popular perspectives can sometimes create controversy for a given subject. In other words, the more recent the history, the more emotionally charged it is. Vietnam and the Civil Rights Movement, for example, have multiple perspectives in the field of History. I strive to treat these subjects with the respect and gravity they deserve. If there’s ever a question that the student or parent/guardian has concerning this, I’m happy to discuss. *If the parent/guardian is concerned about video content or material please email me for adaptations/accommodations*.

**Behavior during videos:** Students should respect the video watching experience for the rich opportunity that it represents. Chatting or working on other classwork is prohibited. Students should always engage with the material and complete the accompanying viewing guide/reflection/analysis assignment that goes with the video.

**Movies/Videos that MAY be shown this year (whether it’s all or just a part/clip):**

1. Glory (R)

* To show how African-Americans helped the north win the Civil War.
* To show how African-Americans were treated by their fellow white soldiers.
* To show the culture and bravery of the African-Americans who fought in the war.
* To show how the African-American soldiers were discriminated against in the Civil War.

2. Far and Away (PG-13)

* To show the hardships immigrants faced in American once they arrived.
* To show how unsanitary conditions created government standards for living.

3. Iron Jawed Angels (not rated NR – HBO movie)

* To show the fight for women’s suffrage in the 1900s.

4. Cinderella Man (PG-13)

* To show the various causes of the Great Depression.
* To show the hardships and the life of the people during the Great Depression.

5. Saving Private Ryan (R)

* To show what men endured on D-Day when they stormed the beaches of Normandy.
* To show what war is and that it should not be glorified.

6. Oprah Winfrey and Elie Wiesel Auschwitz (not rated - NR)

* To show the horrors of the Holocaust through the eyes of a survivor

7. Pearl Harbor (PG-13)

* To show what happened when America was attacked by surprise by the Japanese during WWII.

8. Letters from Vietnam (PG)

* To provide actual accounts of the Vietnam War from the soldiers who served.

9. Other Videos:

* Documentaries/videos from PBS, Discovery Education, History Channel, Military Channel, National Geographic, *The Century* TV series, etc.

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***Confirmation:*** Please sign this part of the page and return it to Mr. Wilson before \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

My child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I have read the Course Plan and Outline and the Video List. We understand the framework of the course, the academic and behavior expectations, and the possible videos that may be shown. We also know that if we need to contact Mr. Wilson at any time during the school year, we can reach him via his phone or his email. Finally, we understand that this is a tentative course outline and that Mr. Wilson is able to change it during the year to best meet the learning needs of the class.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_