

American History I (To 1877)

Syllabus

Fall 2011

Instructor: Bev Birney

Textbook: *Liberty, Equality, & Power – 6th Edition* – John Murrin & others
Supplemental Text – *The American Nation* - Paul Boyer

Course Description: The course will cover the history of the US from the discovery of the new world through 1877. Seven broad themes regarding America's past will be emphasized: global relations, Constitutional heritage, democratic values, technology & society, cultural diversity, geographic diversity, and economic development.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to

- Explore the traditions that have shaped America's past and will continue to mold its future
- Understand history by making connections between the past and present
- Demonstrate map, chart, and graph skills while strengthening reading and writing skills
- Examine the role that geography has played in influencing our past and present.
- Integrate multimedia with select key events
- Demonstrate critical-thinking skills by becoming an active historian
- Understand the connections between historical events and see how past events are relevant to today's social, political, and economic concerns

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated by the instructor in the following areas:

- 7 unit and 1 semester exam(s) (multiple choice, t/f, matching, & short answer)
- 2 map tests
- Group or individual projects
- Written assignments
- Oral participation and presentation
- Attendance

Grading Scale:

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|---|------------|
| A | 100% - 90% |
| B | 89% - 80% |
| C | 79% - 70% |
| D | 69% - 60% |
| F | below 60% |

Final Grade:

Total Points

School Phone # 620 – 826 - 3241

Home Phone # 620 – 826 – 3806

Classroom Policies – Bev Birney

EXPECTATIONS:

I have four basic rules within my classroom I expect you to follow: be one time and prepared, contribute creatively, productively, and responsibly, do your own work, and respect your own and others life spaces. All policies and procedures outlined in the student handbook apply in this classroom and all times. All students will be responsible for themselves and their actions and will be aware that inappropriate actions carry consequences. These policies are in effect to create a positive and safe learning environment for all students.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will be assigned and is due the next day at the beginning of class. **No late work will be accepted.** If you know you are going to miss class, get assignments early, as they will still be due the next day at the beginning of class. If it is turned in after the start of class it will be considered late and not accepted. Work that comes in during class or at the end will be considered late.

GRADING:

All test, projects, homework, etc. will be counted as total points.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

Notebook paper, binder, pen (blue or black ink only) or pencil, & usb jump drive.

FOOD & DRINK

Food and drink are not allowed in this classroom, with the exception of bottled water (in a clear plastic bottle, with a cap). This policy includes candy

SCHOOL RELATED ABSENCES:

If you are absent from class due to a school related activity (music, sports, forensics, etc.) you **must ask for assignments and turn in homework prior** to the absence or it will be considered late and a **0** will be given. It is your responsibility to keep track of the days that you will miss and ask for your assignments in advance.

ABSENCES:

If you miss class due to a personal reason, the USD 459 policy will be in effect. Being in class is essential for you to do well.

CHEATING:

Cheating will result in a grade of 0. Copying homework will result in a grade of 0 for both the one who cheated and the one who allowed the cheating. **Students may not work together on assignments unless designated as so by the instructor.**

Plagiarism consists of using the ideas or words of someone else without acknowledgment. It is a form of cheating, will result in failure of the assignment and your parents/guardian will be contacted.

Some examples of plagiarism:

- Copying someone else's assignment or paper and submitting it as your own
- Downloading essays or papers off the internet and submitting them as your own

- Buying and submitting another student's work or a professionally prepared paper
- Copying or paraphrasing words, phrases, sentences, passages, data, or statistics without acknowledging the source
- Using someone else's ideas without giving him/her credit
- Collaborating on assignments without permission from the instructor

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Electronic devices will not be allowed in the classroom at any time. These include, but are not limited to: iPods, MP3 players, cd players, cell phones, and pagers.