

American History Pre-AP Syllabus

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year and 8th grade American History. In this class you will be learning about our common heritage as Americans. I encourage parents/guardians and families to get involved as history affects us all. This course will be challenging and is intended to foster growth and critical thinking. Your success in my class will depend on your effort, a positive attitude and abiding by the following syllabus.

SUPPLIES

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- A Chromebook or laptop to have in class most days.
 - **Blue/Teal** colored 1 inch, 3-ring binder **per semester**
 - 5-tab dividers **per semester**
 - Reinforcement stickers
 - Lined paper (reinforced, if possible)
 - Agenda (provided by NPA)
 - Dark blue or black pens (Work done in pencil is **not** accepted. Erasable pens ok.)
 - Bright colored pens, such as red or green, for corrections
 - Colored pencils
 - White out

PROCEDURES/RULES

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1. Be in your seat and silently working on the Bellwork *before* the bell rings.
 2. Be prepared. Come to class with all of the supplies listed above, **every day of class**. Come ready to learn and participate.
 3. Respect the learning environment. Stay on task and do not disrupt your classmates.
 4. Respect everyone around you. You should listen respectfully to each person's comments or ideas. Each one of us sees things differently, based on our experiences and knowledge. Remember that there are many different ways of looking at things. Keep in mind that getting upset at someone will not persuade him or her to your way of thinking. Civil discourse is expected in all academic conversations that take place in this class.
 5. Be responsible. Take responsibility for your own learning and actions. If you do not understand a concept or a word, please ask me to explain. Contact me immediately if you need help with an assignment, through office hours, email, Google Classroom or Remind 101. If you are absent, you need to get work from the absent binder and/or Google Classroom or see me before or after class. Being absent does **NOT** excuse you from the work assigned while you were gone. If you are absent, you are responsible for any material you missed.
 6. At the end of class, the bell does not dismiss you – I do.

GRADES

Grade scale – 90 -100% = A, 80 - 89% = B, 70 - 79% = C, 60 - 69% = D, 59% or below = F

Infinite Campus – Grades will be updated every Monday morning. Please check your grades often to avoid failing grades. Emails to students and their families will be sent out on Fridays with any missing assignments and/or failing grades.

Late Work – Late assignments are **NOT** accepted for full credit. Turn the work in when it is due: that is part of taking responsibility for your learning. Late work will be docked 10% for every day past the due date up to 50% off until the end of the current unit. You may redo any assignment from the current unit until the unit test. If you are absent, you have as many days as you were absent to make up the work. Excessive absences could negatively affect your grade! Missing homework will also result in being assigned to afterschool HELP.

- Projects will not be accepted late for **any** credit since students will have a minimum of 5 weeks in which to complete the projects. Students should see me immediately if there is an issue with completing the project on time. Procrastination is not an acceptable excuse!

Extra Credit - Extra credit assignments are only accepted if all of your required work is turned in.

Extra credit is designed to boost your grade not to replace assignments you did not do in the first place.

Academic Integrity – Cheating and plagiarism are **NOT** allowed. This includes copying from the Internet, copying another student’s work, etc. If you do so, or allow someone to cheat off of you, you will receive a zero on the assignment or test and your parents will be notified.

ASSIGNMENTS

*These should be done digitally as much as possible. You may request a hard copy of any assignment.

Classwork (30%):

- Bellwork - There will be a bellwork question on the board every day when you enter class. The entire week’s bellwork is due every Friday. You must make up bellwork if you are absent. Missed bellwork questions can be found on Google Classroom.
- General classwork – Any kind of assignment in class that helps you learn the material.

Homework (25%):

- Current Events – A current event is due the last day of every month, except December and May. Look ahead at due dates, they may fall on the weekend or a holiday, please plan ahead.
- Vocabulary Grids – Every unit will include a vocabulary assignment from the topic covered.
- Maps – Every unit will include a geography assignment related to the unit.
- Any kind of assignment outside of class that helps you learn the material.

Tests/Quizzes (25%):

- Tests - At the end of every unit, there will be a test. As part of an in-class study session for the test, students will receive the opportunity to earn extra credit points on their tests (if all required work is turned in). Also, during my office hours right before a test I will hold an informal study session to ask any last minute questions and to review the study guide.
- Quizzes - There will be quizzes each semester on the presidents and important speeches.
- Arizona Civics Exam – Students will need to pass the state exam by the end of the year.
- National Geographic Bee- Students will participate in the school bee in January.

Projects (15%):

- There will be one major project each quarter. These will be worth over 100 points each and should be taken very seriously. Projects should demonstrate a student’s mastery of the content taught and therefore will be considered the midterm and final exam for this course.

Participation (5%):

- American History is a very interactive class and a portion of your grade will be participation.
- Portfolio - Students are expected to keep **all assignments** in a blue/teal 1-inch 3-ring binder. You are expected to keep the table of contents up to date and number each page. The portfolio will be collected at the end of each unit and graded for accuracy.

RESOURCES:

Google Classroom – Please enroll in Google Classroom for your class period. This is where you can find all class assignments and announcements. Bookmark it!

Website – Go to <http://mrsshafernpa.weebly.com/> to find other important resources for this class.

Remind 101 - I will text important reminders for this class. Please sign-up!

Communication - I am available Monday–Friday from 8AM-4PM only.

- Ways to contact me:
 - Email me at LShafer@northlandprep.org
 - Message me through Remind 101 or Google Classroom
 - Office Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays from 3:15-4:00. I’m also available by appointment at other times.

BEHAVIOR:

Students should behave with academic integrity and respect that is befitting of a student of Northland Preparatory Academy. Each 8th grade student will receive a Respect and Responsibility Card to track their behavior. Students must have their R&R Card with them at all times during the school day. On the card students can earn positives for outstanding behavior and negatives for bad behavior. Exceptional behavior will be rewarded at the end of each quarter. However, negative behavior will result in consequences.

- **Tardy policy:** If you are not in your seat and working on the bellwork when the bell rings you are tardy to my class. A tardy will result in a negative on your R&R Card.
- **Cell Phone Policy:** No cell phones are to be used in this classroom at any time. Please leave them in your locker or put them in the cell phone bin on your way into class.
- To start the year off right and receive your first “A”, take this syllabus home and review it with your parents/guardians.
 - ****Parents/Guardians please read and detach the last page of this syllabus for future reference.****
 - Then both you and your parent/guardian should fill out the contract for this class by **FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021** by using this link: [Syllabus Contract](#).
 - Keep this copy of your syllabus in your Portfolio.

Important Facts and Information for Parents American History Pre-AP – Mrs. Shafer

- ❖ This is an incredibly rigorous class and designed to prepare your child for success in high school and college. I never ask students to do anything beyond what I believe they can do. They may feel challenged and frustrated at times, but please know that these are growing pains and it will allow them the opportunity to grow as a student and learner.
- ❖ You can check your child's grades on Infinite Campus. I will update grades at least every Monday. Emails to students and families will be sent out on Fridays with any missing assignments and/or failing grades.
- ❖ Google Classroom will be used for class assignments and announcements for this class. Parents do not have access to the entirety of the website without using their child's account, but you can sign-up to receive weekly reports from Google. *Please do not use Google Classroom to track grades or missing assignments; Infinite Campus should be used for that purpose.*
- ❖ Please visit my class website: <http://mrsshafernpa.weebly.com/> for additional information, resources and a link to the Google Calendar for my class.
- ❖ Please sign up for my Remind 101 text messaging service. I will text the homework and important reminders every school night. Please see the back of this handout to sign up.
- ❖ Students have 15-20 minutes of homework in this class **EVERY** school night. On the rare occasion they don't it will be posted on my website calendar or sent through Remind 101.
 - Regular assignments to expect:
 - Bellwork due every Friday
 - A current event is due the last day of every month
 - A major project every quarter – tasks to be done every week (15-20 minutes a day)
 - A unit test every 4-6 weeks – study guides are given out one week prior
 - A portfolio check is due one week after every unit test
- ❖ I do **NOT** accept late work for full credit. We are trying to teach your child the personal responsibility necessary to be successful in their higher learning. Students will be docked 10% for each day an assignment is late up to 50% off until the end of the current unit as well as a detention assigned for missing homework. Late projects will **NOT** be accepted for any credit and students may not redo any portion of a project, since they have a minimum of 5 weeks to complete projects. Students should see me during my office hours ahead of time if they are struggling with a project.
- ❖ Students may redo any assignment they received a low grade on from the current unit until the unit test.
- ❖ I offer many extra credit opportunities, listed on a worksheet in your child's portfolio and on Google Classroom, however extra credit is only accepted if your child has **no** missing assignments.
- ❖ Films: Several pieces of film are used in illustrating key events during the course of this class. While most of these films are documentaries, some are sections of feature films. None of these films exceed PG-13 rating. If a student or parent has a concern with a documentary or film, please contact me. See my film rationales on the Northland Prep website for more information.
- ❖ I have office hours listed on my website and outside my classroom door for students who need to see me outside of class time. I am available at other times *by appointment only*. If a student needs additional help on an assignment, they should make an appointment to see me *before* the due date.
- ❖ The best way to contact me is by email: Ishafer@northlandprep.org. Please give me 24 hours in which to respond (72 hours if it is sent on the weekend), if I haven't responded by then I may not have received your email. I can also be reached by phone at 928-214-8776. Please leave a message with the office if you cannot reach me.