



Ms. Kate Arnold- Social Studies Office

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Welcome

Welcome to Second Semester of Social Studies 10! Throughout this semester you will be asked to “Think and Read Like A Historian” about different topics and issues related to US History. During the second semester we will consider some of the major changes the country went through between WWI and WWII, our involvement in international conflicts, and the Civil Rights Era. Our main goal is to use the past to help us understand the world around us today.

Materials

You will need a three ring binder with looseleaf paper OR a folder and spiral notebook dedicated to SS10, as well as a pen or pencil each day for class. You do not need to bring your book to class. Students are encouraged to keep books at home to reduce wear and tear.

Writing Assignments

Clear expression of your ideas in writing is one of the most important skills in social studies. You will be asked to complete a number of writing assignments, large and small. I will work with you to improve your written work throughout the semester, focusing on effective summarizing, clear expression of ideas, and use of evidence. All written work you submit must be in your own words! (see Academic Honesty section below).

Class Participation

You will be expected to actively participate in class on a daily basis! Discussing controversial issues, stating your opinion, respectfully disagreeing with your peers, listening, and responding to others are all critical skills you will need as a future citizen. Part of your grade will be based on your preparation for, and positive participation in, both small group and large group discussions. Each week your participation will be evaluated on a 5 point scale.

Assessments

Throughout the semester we will have assessments to check on your understanding of the big ideas of history, and so that you can show me how you are growing in your ability to “Think Like a Historian”. These will involve short answer tests, discussions, short papers, and projects.

Grading

In this course, you will be expected to demonstrate mastery of certain skills and information through smaller homework assignments, and larger assessments. Quarter grades will be calculated based on a combination of demonstrating certain skills on classwork and homework assignments, participation in group and class discussions, and assessments to show mastery of subject matter and skills.

<i>Quarter Grades:</i>	Homework and Classwork (building mastery of skills)	25%
	Daily Discussion (preparation and participation)	25%
	Tests/Projects/Papers (final assessments)	50%

<i>Semester Grades:</i>	Quarter 1	45%
	Quarter 2	45%
	Exam	10%

Absences

I am sure that you have noticed that missing class with the block schedule is more difficult. If you miss class please check the wikispaces website or talk to a classmate about what you missed AND see me outside of class to check on assignments, handouts or activities that you need to make up. It is YOUR responsibility to talk to me about make up work, and turn in any missed work by the next class period.

Late Work

Turn in your work on time. If you cannot turn something in on time, please see me after class to let me know why you couldn't complete the assignment and your plan for getting your work turned in. Do not work on late assignments during class time! Late work will be accepted until the end of each unit for 70% credit.

Academic Honesty

All student work should be a reflection of original ideas, synthesis, analysis, and interpretation. ALL written work must be in your own words. Plagiarism is defined as representing the ideas or words of another person as your own. Copying anything from another source (a fellow student, book, magazine, or internet site) without proper citation is considered plagiarism. As per the school policy, students will receive a zero on plagiarized work, and will not have the opportunity to redo or makeup the work. I receive a copied assignment, both students will get a zero. Other consequences may follow, depending on the severity of the offense.

Electronic Devices

I have become increasingly concerned about student use of electronic devices during school time. How can you be engaged and focused on your classes if you are trying to sneakily check your phone to see if your friends texted you? For this reason I have a zero tolerance policy for any and all electronic devices in my classroom. If you are using or holding any cellphone, music player or other device during class time (no matter where we are, hallway, computer lab, and LMC included) a deans assistant will be called to take the device to student services for pickup at the end of the following school day. This is the school wide policy, and I really will enforce it because I care about your learning!

In Conclusion...

I am really looking forward to working with you this year, and I can't wait to get to know each and every one of you! I think that you are going to find US History to be an engaging, exciting, and challenging class. Please feel free to talk to me if you have any concerns, or special circumstances. I am available before and after school by appointment, during 2nd and 3rd blocks, and by phone or email.

I have read the course information, and understand the expectations of SS10. If I have any questions, I will contact Ms. Arnold directly.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____