

### Course Description:

The United States History and Government course will enable students to follow and analyze the progression of the United States from the Native Americans and European colonization to the present day. We will also be focusing on the development throughout the course of our history, our representative democracy from the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. As is history, there are immense amounts of changes that take place which have aided in making us who we are today. In studying U.S. history and our government, we should all gain a sense of nationalism while continuing to view things from multiple perspectives to understand the causes and impacts of various eras, events and historical figures in our history.

### Instructional Objectives:

The Students will be instructed in the following skills:

1. Map skills – locating specific places and understanding the effects of geography on people.
2. Comprehending primary documents – having students read and comprehend different primary sources.
3. Understanding differences among people throughout time, to investigate themes from multiple perspectives.
4. Ability to answer Regents-style questions: knowledge-based multiple choice, Thematic and DBQ essays.
5. Developing study skills – having students attempt a variety of study techniques so that they can find a method most suitable for them.
6. Constructing knowledge through cooperative learning – students will be asked to work together in order to complete tasks by aiding one another and combining their knowledge.

### Requirements:

**Notebook:** Students are required to keep a neat and organized notebook. All handouts and classroom notes are to be kept neatly for future study. There will be possible notebook checks (resulting in a quiz grade) and open-note pop quizzes throughout the year.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned throughout the year, whether it is a handout, vocabulary, questions-to-answer, or studying. Each assignment will be worth at least a total of 10 points, maybe more. Homework is due when collected, therefore if it is handed in after, it is late, and a lower grade will be earned. Failure to hand in an assignment will result in a zero. Frequently missed homework assignments may result in disciplinary actions and parental contact.

**Tests-Quizzes and Exams:** Students will be given at least 3 days advanced notice of when an exam will be given. Those students who miss a quiz or exam will be given ample time to make up that test, however if the make-up quiz or exam is missed a zero may be earned and parent contact will be made.

**Projects and Papers:** Projects and papers will be assigned quarterly. Each student will receive a handout explaining what needs to be done in order to complete the project successfully. If a student does not understand the instructions, they can see me at any time... **the sooner the better!** Lateness will be penalized based on the assignment and teacher's discretion.

Attendance and Lateness:

Those students who are absent from class are required to make up the work that they missed, therefore it is their responsibility to see me to find out what they missed and receive the work that needs to be made up. As per the Greene Central School handbook, students who are absent more than the maximum of **24** days can be denied credit. Those students who are continually late to class will be dealt with as though a disciplinary problem. *First period students who are not in the classroom when the bell rings will be sent to the office for a pass and will be considered late to school.*

Class Rules:

1. Always be RESPECTFUL towards fellow classmates, students, teachers, substitutes, and administrators. If you want respect, then you must give it too.
2. Be cooperative and DO NOT “call out” or disrupt the teacher or another student while they are speaking. If you wish to answer a question or speak, please raise your hand. If you must throw out any garbage or sharpen a pencil, please wait until an appropriate time (ex. At the end of the period).
3. **Cell phones are NOT allowed in class – they are to be kept in your locker and not brought to class**
4. Passes will be available if no one or the entire class takes advantage of this *privilege* (ex. Hallway wandering, stopping to chat with friends, frequent and/or daily trips). Only one student will be allowed out at a time.

Discipline:

If a student becomes disruptive or disrespectful in class, that student will be dealt with in either/or the following ways:

1. face-to-face conversation with myself
2. teacher’s detention during 9<sup>th</sup> period and a call home to parent or guardian
3. removal from class and/or written-up and dealt with by administration

Grade Formula:

Tests: Exams = 100 points each (2X) – the second time will be graded with corrections

Quizzes = 50 points (includes current events)

Projects = 25-50 points for in class projects

100+ points for out of class projects

HW/CW = 10 points each (class participation will be looked at too)

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Final grade = total points earned (+ extra credit\*) / total points

\* **Extra Credit** will be offered *however it will NOT be offered as make up work for missing assignments unless otherwise discussed with me.*

Extra Help:

I will be available everyday after school during 9<sup>th</sup> period from 2:25 – 3:10 for any extra help, make up assignments, make up tests, etc. in room 211 unless otherwise notified. Students need to make an appointment so that transportation will be provided. **Please take advantage!**

**Student Signature - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent / Guardian Signature - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Contact Email(s) - \_\_\_\_\_**

\*If you would like to be added to the class email list please let me know by filling out the mail contact above.

September 10, 2020

student name: \_\_\_\_\_

parent/ guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Over the course of the school year we will be watching a variety of movies and clips of movies. Movies allow us to enhance our curriculum by giving our students visual images of a time period or event. Movies are not used to teach curriculum but are used to add to it. Below is a list of the movies that we might be watching (either the entirety or clips) throughout the year. Some of these will be watched in class, while others will be assigned as homework. If your student is not given permission, then they will be sent to the library to work on an alternative assignment to supplement the movie.

**I approve all these films/clips ----- \_\_\_\_\_**

**OR**

**Please initial those blanks that you approve. Those that you do not approve, leave blank.**

- Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (rated PG)----- \_\_\_\_\_
- Iron Jawed Angels* (rated PG)----- \_\_\_\_\_
- Saving Private Ryan* (rated R)----- \_\_\_\_\_
- We Were Soldiers* (rated R)----- \_\_\_\_\_

\*This list does not include videos that we might watch from television (ex. History Channel) or video series (ex. *The Century: America's Time*).

\*\*If there are any movies that I would like to show that are not on this list I will send your student home with a specific permission slip to view the movie/clip.

Thanks so much for your cooperation. If you have any questions please call (ex. 332) or email me ([jdehaan@greenecsd.org](mailto:jdehaan@greenecsd.org)).

- Mr. J. deHaan