Team Phoenix Social Studies

Miss Genova

2012-2013 School Year

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Welcome to 8th Grade United States History!

This year we will be examining and discovering our nation’s history from the Age of Exploration until the end of the Cold War. This class will include many projects, writing assignments, performances, and presentations. My goals as your teacher are to help you understand the events that led America to be the nation it is today, to help you develop communication and critical thinking skills to serve you in the future, and to show you that history is really, really, REALLY fun. Trust me.

This paper is going to serve as an overview of our course as well as an explanation of our specific class rules and procedures which will be in addition to the team expectations we have already discussed. You will keep this in your binder to refer to throughout the year if you need a refresher.

 I:Units of Study. We will be studying the following topics this year!

* September- Course introduction, World/US Geography refresher, Colonialism
* October- American Revolution/Civics (focus on upcoming Presidential election)
* November- Civics/Constitution (continuing election focus)
* December- The Young Republic/Westward Expansion
* January- Early Industry/Causes of the Civil War
* February- Civil War/Reconstruction
* March- Civil Rights Movement/Industrial Revolution/WWI
* April- 1920s/Great Depression/WWII
* May- The Cold War
* June- Cumulative Portfolio Project

As you can see, this is a very busy year with a lot of material to cover. In order to help keep this information organized, we will be maintaining a class portfolio to be discussed later.

II: Grading Practices

 Grading in this class will be done using a total point system. Simply put, each assignment will be worth a specific number of points and grades will be calculated by dividing the points earned on an assignment by the total points possible. IE: earning a 4 out of 5 on an assignment is equal to a grade of 80% or a B-. The term grades will be calculated using the same system. The bulk of the grades in this class will be projects, tests/quizzes, writing assignments, and class work. Homework will be counted, but is assigned mostly to practice a skill or as a part of a larger project assignment. Therefore, while homework is not a massive part of the course grade, failure to complete homework regularly will result in a lack of practice and therefore a lower average.

 All grades will be entered into our electronic gradebook and can be accessed at any time using the parent portal of Infinite Campus. If you do not have IC login information or need a new password, please contact the Main Office.

III: Make-ups and Retakes of Tests/Quizzes

 If an unsatisfactory grade is earned on a major assignment such as a test or an essay, opportunities may be made available to complete remedial assignments for additional credit at the teacher’s discretion.

IV: General Class Procedures

 Students are expected to abide by all school and team rules at all times. This includes classroom behavior, being prepared for class, and always putting forth the best effort on all assignments.

V: ASKING FOR HELP

 If, at **ANY** time during the course of this year, you need extra help, have questions or concerns, or feel you are misunderstand class assignments or material, **PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME**. I am here to help you, first and foremost. Do not wait until you receive and unsatisfactory grade on an assignment or fail for a quarter to tell me you are struggling. I want you to have the best possible year in this class and a huge part of that is you feeling secure in discussing your possible struggles or questions with me.

Please take this sheet home and review it with your parent or guardian. After that, you and your parent should sign on the lines below and return with this sheet to class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that by signing this paper I am communicating my understanding of the class policies and procedures of Team Phoenix Social Studies class.