**American Topics Course Syllabus**

*Mr. Nelson*

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**TEXTBOOK ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS**

America: History of Our Nation

**GRADE PERCENTAGES FOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

All tests and assignments will be weighted equally by points scored.

**SEMESTER GRADE PERCENTAGES**

Semester 85%

Semester Exam 15%

**GRADING SCALE**

90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 60 or Below=F

**COURSE OBJECTIVES FOR AMERICAN TOPICS**

This is a general education course designed to meet the needs of citizens. It s expected that it will enable students to make educated judgments in their present day world and its society. Specifically, it assists the student in the acquisition of knowledge, the development of academic skills and values.

Upon completing this course the student will be able to:

1. Students will study the development of the United States in a chronological order from approximately 1945 to the present, the characteristics of the peoples who help make up American history, and the leaders, forces, events, and cultural aspects that have helped shape America.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the interrelationship of economic, political, social, psychological, and technological forces in the shaping of societies and culture.
3. Students will develop an understanding of the ability to practice such academic skills as research, library use, writing, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing historical information.
4. Students will develop an understanding for historical themes concerning the evolution of the United States, including constitutional government, wars, social issues, political events, America, and the world.
5. Students will be challenged to consider and analyze, evaluate his/her values, the values of other groups in the United States, and other peoples in the world.
6. Reflect upon choices humans have made in the past and consider how choices today may affect the future.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is defined as plagiarism (stealing another’s work without giving proper credit to the source) or cheating on an exam. Either may result in an automatic “F” for the assignment or exam and/or a disciplinary referral to the office. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an excuse. Come see me if you have any doubts.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

While in class students will model the 3 “pillars” of MHS

**Respect:** Respect yourself, Respect others, and Respect your school.

**Responsibility:** Be prepared, Make positive choices, Follow rules and expectations.

**Safety:** Care for yourself, Care for others, Care for MHS.

These Pillars include but are not limited to:

1) Be on time and prepared with all items needed

2) Show Respect at all times

3) Pay attention and take notes during instruction

4) Work Responsibly (work on assignments during allowed class time)

5) Be honest and do the right thing

6) Only bottled water will be allowed in class (no other food or drink will be tolerated)

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY**

If a student is absent from class they will have 3 days to complete all missed work. After 3 days, any assignments and/or exams not yet completed will be entered as a 0 in the grade book.

Late work will be accepted for 10% off each day the work is late.

It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements to make up a missed exam.

It is the student’s responsibility to check their grade for this class. If a student has any questions about his or her grade, they should make arrangements to meet with the instructor.

It is the student’s responsibility to be on time for class and prepared for class daily.