



Mr. Green's U.S. History Syllabus



Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! This should be a fun, yet rigorous year. All of my history lessons are based on the California Social Science Standards, which can be found on my website (www.Historywithmrgreen.com). To meet the high standards set forth in my history class, students are expected to give their best effort in and out of class. Reviewing the following information should help students focus these efforts. If you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible (BGreen@SLUSD.us).

Thank You,

Blake Green

Expectations

As a general rule, RESPECT should guide everyone's actions in the class.

- Respect the Learning Environment
 - o Make sure your behavior and attitude have a positive effect on the ability of others to learn.
 - o You may drink water in class, but please save other food and drink items for after class.
 - o Please pick up after yourself, so the class will be prepared for the next group of students.
- Respect the Teacher and Classmates
 - o Raise your hand to make a comment or ask a question related to class.
 - o Use language appropriate for the school setting.
 - o Listen carefully to what others have to say.
 - o Respect others' private space.
- Respect Yourself
 - o Turn in all assignments on time. Late work will only be accepted from students who have EXCUSED absences (one day for each day missed), unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. If you miss an assignment, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COME IN DURING LUNCH OR AFTER SCHOOL TO GET MAKE UP WORK.

Class Procedures

Beginning-of-Period Procedures: As soon as the bell rings students should be seated and ready to work (sharpened pencil, paper, and book at hand). There will typically be a starter activity (a journal topic, quiz, or other activity) at the beginning of the class.

Tardy Students: Students who come in late should complete as much of the starter activity as possible. Students who are tardy twice in one week will be expected to serve a ten to fifteen-minute detention and will also lose points toward their participation grade.

Absences: Students who have been absent must come in before school, at lunch, or after school **on the day they return**, so they can be given the appropriate materials and instruction to complete missing assignments and instruction. Students will have the same number of days to make up assignments as the number of excused absences. However, a cut will result in a zero for any assignments missed during the unexcused absence.

Leaving the Room: Once you are in the class you are to remain in class, unless you have a pass from the office. Students who need to leave the class for non-emergencies (a drink of water or use of restroom) will have points deducted from the participation portion of their grade.

Sharpening Pencils: Please make sure pencils are sharpened prior to class. If you need to sharpen your pencil during class, please hold up your pencil, and the teacher will allow you to do so at the appropriate time.

Classroom Participation: Students should use all of their class time effectively and stay on task. When the teacher or a student (who has been called on) is talking everyone should be actively listening (making eye contact, not talking, or messing with things in their backpack etc.). Students should wait for the appropriate time to raise their hand for non-academic reasons.

- **Phones:** Unless otherwise instructed, cell phones should not be visible during class time. If they are out, students will have points deducted from their participation grade.

Student Materials: Every student should bring one a notebook for the interactive notebook (see rubric) and another source of paper for assignments. Students should always bring two pens and two pencils with them as well. It is not required, but a **pocket dictionary** would be a wonderful asset in this class and others.

Teacher's Materials: We will frequently work on assignments that require additional materials, which the school or I will provide. These materials should stay in class and students should **never take materials from the teacher's desk.**

End of Period: Once students are seated quietly and the class is ready for the next group of students, the teacher will dismiss the class by rows or groups.

Consequences for Negative Behavior

- **First:** Students engaging in negative behavior will be told to stop that behavior and refocus on the task at hand; they may also be asked to move to a different location in class.

- **Second:** If the negative behavior continues, the student will receive a 10 to 30-minute detention after school and a phone call home. Failure to attend detention will result in a referral to the office.

- **Third:** If the negative behavior continues, the student will receive a referral and be sent to the office.

*Students engaging in severely negative behavior (unwanted physical contact, vandalism, theft, hostile language, etc.) will be directly referred to the office.

*It is at the discretion of the teacher to change the syllabus if circumstances necessitate such alterations. Students will be given advance notice of such changes before their implementation.

Weighted Grading System

Tests and Quizzes = 35% (30% if in Honors U.S. History)

- ◇ Quizzes will take place twice a month (with some exceptions). Tests will take place once every four or five weeks. Prior to most tests, student will play a review game or engage in some other review activity.
- ◇ A final test at the end of each semester will account for 10% of the student's overall grade.

Assignments = 30%

- ◇ Assignment-specific rubrics will be used to assess student work.
- ◇ This category will also include homework, which will be assigned (on average) twice a week – amounting to between one and two hours.
- ◇

Interactive Notebook: = 25%

- ◇ Journal entries will be assessed on their content (detailed explanation of opinions) and their presentation (neatness and conventions).
- ◇ Student notes will be assessed based on how well they show proof of thorough reading through detailed notes on key terms, concepts, and individuals, as well as their construction of specific questions and summaries related to the reading material (See “Notes Rubric” for further details.).
- ◇ Periodically, students will also be asked to write on current events (see rubric).
- ◇ Short “processing” assignments will also be completed in the notebook.

Participation = 10%

- ◇ Student participation will be based on attendance, attentiveness, preparation, and positive involvement in class.

*Summer Assignment/Research Paper (Honors Only) 5%:

This was the assignment given to students before summer, which was also posted on the school's website. During the spring semester, student will write a 5 - 8-page paper on an important historical figure.

Course Description

Students examine major turning points in the shaping of the United States, from the late nineteenth century to the present. The year begins with a brief review of U.S. History up to the Reconstruction. We will continue with the study this country's history through the Cold War, finishing with an analysis of contemporary issues.

Unit I: Review: American Revolution

Unit II: Review: Westward Expansion

Unit III: Review: The Civil War

Unit IV: The Gilded Age

Unit V: The Progressive Era

Unit VI: American Imperialism

Unit VII: The "Roaring" Twenties

Unit VIII: The Great Depression and the New Deal

Unit IX: The United States in the Second World War

Unit X: Social and Economic Change after World War II

Unit XI: United States Foreign Policy During the Cold War

Unit XII: The Civil Rights Movement

Unit XIII: The United States after the Cold War and The War on Terror

***Academic Honesty:** Students should never copy or provide their work to other students without the expressed consent of the teacher. In cases of cheating and/or plagiarism a score of zero will be given to both parties.

Please print and sign your name below to show that you have read and understand the class procedures, expectation, and policies. If you have any concerns, please contact Mr. Green as soon a possible. Parent e-mails are optional, but will be useful in keeping parents informed.

Please cut along the dotted line and return the signed portion.

Student:

Print: _____ Sign: _____

Parent or Guardian:

Print: _____ Sign: _____

Parent E-Mail (optional): _____