

Dr. Tom Sorensen

- Email: sorensent@kwajaleinschools.org
- Google Classroom Code: joqbnq

US History

Syllabus 2024- 2025

Course Philosophy and Description

The United States of America is a nation with a rich history and a noble goal: government of the people, by the people, for the people. Its citizens' struggle to achieve that goal is a dramatic story stretching over hundreds of years. This introductory course will help students explore the American story from the pre-colonial periods stretching before the arrival of Europeans to the end of the Civil War.

Students will:

Be introduced to skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship. Additionally, they will attempt to make connections across time through an examination of current events. As with any history class Students will consider:

- What makes me an important member of my community?
- What connects people across cities, regions, and the country?
- What can I/we learn from someone different from me/us?

Textbook: James West Davidson, Stoff, M. B., Bertolet, J. L., Swan, K., & Pearson Education, Inc. (2016). *American history*. Pearson.

Important Class Policies

Grades are weighted according to the following categories:

Assessments: 50%	Assignments: 50%
Includes projects, term papers, essays, quizzes, and exams.	Readings (Articles and Text), Current Events, Vocabulary, Class Notes

Make-Up:

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You should come and talk to me as soon as possible. We will follow school policy in this regard.

Late Work:

Students have until the unit exam (summative) to turn in any assignment given without penalty.

Retakes/Redos:

Students will have the opportunity to retake/redo assessments. This will enable students to **improve their original test scores up to one full letter grade**. Students may retake/redo assessments only if they have completed all corresponding work in the unit.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is an important part of any academic course. It is mandatory. However, we will refer to the school's attendance policy for guidance should absenteeism become an issue.

Grade Scale: Grades are determined on the following percentage scale:

A+ = 100 - 99	B- = 82 - 80	D+ = 69 - 67
A = 98 - 93	C+ = 79 - 77	D = 66 - 63
A- = 92 - 90	C = 76 - 73	D- = 62 - 60
B+ = 89 - 87	C- = 72-70	F = 59 and below
B = 86-83		

If special or unusual circumstances arise, please immediately communicate with me and we will handle it on a case-by-case basis. However, these issues should be discussed privately and at an appropriate time. DO NOT interrupt the entire class to have these discussions.

Extra Help

I want you to know that extra help is available – all you need to do is ask. I am more than willing to stay after school or come in early to assist you. I want you to be successful. Just ask.

OUR CLASSROOM RULES ARE BASED ON THE KWAJALEIN JR. / SR. HIGH SCHOOL "RISE" EXPECTATIONS