

ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY II

Mr. Ryan Gill
Class Syllabus
Room C409

Contact Info: rgill@woburnpublicschools.com
Phone: 781-937-2160 x 255

["Cowardice asks the question, "is it safe?" Expediency asks the question, "is it politic?" But conscience asks the question, "is it right?" and there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but because conscience tells one that it is right." –Martin Luther King, Jr.]

Course Description and Objectives

American History II is a required course at Woburn Memorial High School. This course will cover major events, themes, and people that are vital to American History from World War II to the present. Political, economic, cultural, social, and religious history will be addressed. Study skills, organizations, research techniques, and presentation methods will also be a key component to the course.

Objectives:

- ✓ Create an understanding of the general themes and trends in American history.
- ✓ Focus on understanding primary documents and sources.
- ✓ Enhance critical thinking skills, and organizational skills.
- ✓ Begin preparation for more advanced skills and tasks in preparation for graduation.

Classroom Policies

As your teacher this year, I have an obligation (and desire) to prepare you the best I possibly can for college. In order for this to happen, the following guidelines have been established. We have an incredible amount of material to go cover, so the more cooperative you are the better.

1. Know and follow all guidelines within the student handbook.
2. Respect the teacher, your fellow classmates, and the classroom.
3. Do not be late for class – When you arrive, take your seat and be prepared for class.
4. Bring all required materials to class – 1. Book, 2. Pen or Pencil, 3. Notebook
5. Food and Drinks are allowed, but this is a privilege and can be taken away.
6. Any cell phones, gaming devices, iPods, or other electronic devices are strictly prohibited during class.

Brief Summary of Course Content

Beginning Topic: Review of World War II
Topic 1: The Cold War (1945-1960)
Topic 2: Postwar America (1945-1960)
Topic 3: The New Frontier and Great Society (1961-1968)
Topic 4: The Civil Rights Movement (1954-1968)
Topic 5: The Vietnam War (1954-1975)
Topic 6: The Politics of Protest (1960-1980)
Topic 7: Politics and Economy (1971-1980)
Topic 8: Resurgence of Conservatism (1980-1992)
Topic 9: Into a New Century (1992-present)

Assessments, Projects, and Grading

Homework – 10%

Homework may include anything from reading, to answering questions, to writing short essays, or even having documents signed by parents. Homework is expected on time and will not be accepted late. The amount of homework I give each term may vary greatly – sometimes 10 assignments or more, sometimes only 2 – so failure to do homework may drastically reduce your term average.

Tests & Quizzes – 60%

Tests and quizzes will be given throughout the year to assess the bulk of what you have learned. Term exams will be given at the end of each term and will be cumulative for that term. Tests and quizzes will always be announced at least 1 day prior to the test date. The major difference between tests and quizzes are based on length and weight (how much it is worth to your overall grade). *If you know about a test before an absence you will be required to take the test upon returning to school.* Failed tests may be made up, but only at the discretion of the teacher.

Class Participation – 10%

Your participation in class is exceedingly important. Without your participation, the classes will become stale and boring, for I can only do so much to provide an exciting classroom. The main purpose for class participation is its function as a learning tool. Be prepared to speak your mind and ask as many relevant questions as possible. Participation can also take the form of written exercises.

Projects – 20%

Projects may take many forms and are designed to let you express your knowledge creatively, thoughtfully, and artistically. Research papers will allow you to develop your research skills and argue your points of view. Oral Presentations will allow you to enhance your public speaking skills while developing a creative method of using technology.

Class Requirements

1. Cover your book... and don't lose it! If you don't return your assigned book by the end of the year you will be charged an obligations fee of \$80, which, if not paid, will prevent you from graduating.
2. Visit the class website and bookmark it on your home and school computer:
<http://home.comcast.net/~ryanpgill>
3. Bring the following materials with you each day: Textbook, Notebook, Pen/Pencil

Extra Credit

Extra credit is ALWAYS available, and is ALWAYS the same assignment. Extra credit will count as a homework assignment or points on a test/quiz/project. The assignment is as follows:

- ✓ Read an article from a newspaper or magazine (online or paper copy).
- ✓ Write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the article.
- ✓ Pass in both the article and summary.

Pop-Quizzes are given on occasion. These are quizzes without any notice at all, sometimes based on previous night's readings. All pop-quizzes are counted as extra credit based on the number of questions you get correct.

Availability

I am available before and after school any day of the week by student/parent request. I am here for your educational needs, so use my services as you see fit.

Please print and submit this page to Mr. Gill by September 12th, 2008

My signature below indicates that I understand all of the information on the syllabus provided to me by Mr. Gill for the Honors World History Class. I intend to comply with the information provided within the World History Syllabus as well as the rules provided by the Woburn Memorial High School Student Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Student Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Name (Signature)

Student Name (Signature)

Date_____