**Honors U.S. History**

“Course Syllabus – Fall Semester 2018”

Mr. Fernandez

**Introduction**

Welcome to Honors U.S. History! I am excited about teaching you this semester and look forward to getting to know each of you. It's an exciting time to study American history, particularly when you stop and take note of all that's going on in our country… everything from the national debates concerning the presidency and gubernatorial elections, to local discussions surrounding the topic of civil rights and liberties. By the time you complete this course, you will have a developed a sound understanding of U.S. History, considered the significance of historiography, mastered information for quizzes and tests, and written essays in preparation for college. We will begin the year with a unit covering the story of Christopher Columbus. Some of the information we will be reviewing dates back to your eighth grade year, but for most of you it will all be new. Outside of majoring in history in college, this will be the most in-depth look at U.S. History you will receive in your academic career… so be sure to pay attention.

Our first unit will take three weeks to cover, culminating in our first unit review test. We will consider, but not be limited to the following topics during the first three weeks:

* + European expansion and exploration.
  + push and pull factors of migration.
  + historiography.
  + the clash of cultures.

It is imperative that you come to class ready to work. Our class time will be spent lecturing, taking notes, analyzing documents, and discussing.

**Class Rules – Be Prompt, Be Prepared, Be Respectful!!!**

1. Students will be marked tardy who are not in their seat when the bell rings.

2. Students are expected to have all appropriate materials including pen, paper,

notebook, and textbook - possible five-point reduction per infraction.

3. Students must respect the opinions of others in the classroom.

4. Students must not have food or drink of any type out in the classroom.

5. Students are required to work quietly and diligently, as not to disturb the work

of their classmates.

**Grading Policy**

Grading for this class is simple. Each nine-week grading period there will be 500 points up for grabs. Here is the breakdown:

Tests and/or Projects (3) – 100 pt. each 300 = 60%

Quizzes (10) - 10 pt. each (some 20) 100 = 20%

Homework/ Participation 100 = 20%

500 = 100%

* Tests will typically be multiple-choice and short answer – mainly objective.
* Some tests that will include essay questions with rubric provided ahead of time.
* Some quizzes will be announced.
* Projects will typically be researched in the WSHS Library with rubric provided.

**Binder Requirement:**

Every student is responsible for having a three-ringed binder by Wednesday, August 08, 2018. Organization of the binder is left to the discretion of the student… Recommendation: *Lecture Notes*, *Text Notes*, *Document Review*, *Map Study,* and *Evaluation*. The binder will be subject to review periodically by the teacher and will sometimes count as a quiz grade. Everything we do in and outside of class needs to be kept in this binder. A student may have five points deducted from his/her participation grade for not bringing the binder to class or for lack of proper organization.

**Course Goals:**

It is my hope that the student will leave this course with the following:

1. a well-balanced understanding of and appreciation for U.S. History.

2. a thorough understanding of *The Constitution of the United*

*States of America.*

3. a well-developed understanding of historiography.

4. a desire to continue studying issues relating to U.S. History.

5. a desire to cast an informed vote come election day.

6. a desire to share this knowledge and passion with others.

**Website Information:**

One of the keys to success in this class is becoming familiar with all the information offered on my website at [www.fernandez.yolasite.com](http://www.fernandez.yolasite.com):

* Lesson Plans
* Assignments
* Quizzes and Tests
* Links to Articles
* Primary Documents
* Extra Credit Opportunities

**Week One Syllabus**

**Monday, August 06, 2018:**

Discuss the syllabus and introduce the website. Review syllabus for first quiz Tuesday – 10 points… have binder by Wednesday… please see me if this is in any way a problem for you. Discuss grading policy in detail.

**Tuesday, August 07, 2018:**

Take five question quiz over the syllabus – 2 points each. Begin lecture over Christopher Columbus… available on website @ [wshsfernandez.yolasite.com](http://wshsfernandez.yolasite.com).

**Wednesday, August 08, 2018:**

Continue lecture today – take detailed notes. Complete American Issues documents for Thursday.

**Thursday, August 09, 2018:**

Discuss American Issues documents at beginning of class. Continue with lecture.

**Friday, August 10, 2018:**

Wrap up lecture over Columbus’s exploration and settlement of the New World, discuss a few more documents, and answer any lingering questions.

First historical review quiz Monday (20 points) over lecture notes and documents. The quiz will be comprised of ten short and long answer questions.

**Don’t forget! Lesson plans, quiz and test preparation questions, links to U.S. History review websites, and much more, are all available at…**

**wshsfernandez.yolasite.com**