

Syllabus and Protocols

"Your Attitude is Your Greatest Friend or Your Worst Enemy"

~John C. Maxwell

Hello New Student!

It is my privilege to have you in my class this year and I look forward to my time in your company. Looking ahead, I know that we'll have a great time together as you develop your repertoire as a scholar of world history. The journey ahead is long, but all of the different activities that we do in class will keep you occupied, and I hope, interested. Before you know it we'll be reviewing for the final exam, and the school year's end will arrive. In the meantime, know that I am pleased that I'll get to know you and to be enriched by your thoughts, ideas and creativity. Let us begin!

My Style as a Teacher

I can't make the case that I teach every course the same. My approaches to A.P.'s and electives are different from this course. The constants, however, are my positive regard and respect for my students and my desire to "mix up" my instruction so we aren't doing the same thing every day. My number one priority is maintaining a positive classroom environment where all are comfortable and can learn. If at any time you are not comfortable it is your duty to let me know so that I can fulfill my duty of solving whatever the problem may be. Also, I really enjoy assisting students when extra help is needed so never be reluctant to ask for additional help!

General Expectations

If I ask a student what he or she is doing, I should never hear the answer "I don't know"...because *whatever we are doing, you are doing*. My highest expectation is that you are 'with me' mentally and focused on classroom activities. I don't get a lot of time with you during the day, so we need to make the most of it. I expect that you will contribute to a classroom environment of mutual respect amongst students and their teacher. Respect means faithfully reciting the Student Pledge, not speaking when I am speaking, raising your hand when you have questions or contributions and listening to directions. My general expectation is that you help develop, rather than restrain, the progress of learning in the classroom.

General Concerns

Let me address some general questions that you might have when entering into any new class...

Attendance: In accordance with school policy, daily attendance is required. If you are legally absent it is your job not only to notify the attendance office, but to let me know as well so that my records are accurate. Also, it is your responsibility to acquire materials or notes that you have missed.

In the case of activities or assignments missed due to absence, here are my stipulations...

- Independent Studies assigned before your absence are due upon your return(plan to schedule Part II of these assignments with Mr.Smith)
- Tests that you were aware of, but absent for, are to be taken upon your return.
- All other assignments, or catching up on notes, are to be made up within one day of your return to class.
- For long term absences, your teacher reserves the right to count future test grade in the place of missed assessments.

Assessments: Your knowledge is evaluated using summative assessments(unit tests) in this class as well as homework assignments. The relative value of these items are detailed below(this is for the first marking period):

Tests = 80% of Marking Period
Independent Studies = 20% of Marking Period

As you can see, unit tests make up the vast majority of your average as they are the most key measure of your mastery of the material for this course. That being said, keeping up with Independent Study assignments, which are often consist of Video Notes Assignments, will help you learn the material reflected on the tests. Independent Study assignments may be turned in beyond the original due date, but please keep in mind that the grade for in-class portions of these assignments may not be improved.

Emergencies: You are expected to plan bathroom usage around class time but, within reason, I will be lenient when emergencies arise. Please do not ask to leave regularly or I will have to deny your requests.

Punitive Action: For minor infractions of my expectations as outlined previously I will assign you a 30 minute 'class detention' with me after school from 2:30-3:00. These are scheduled at my convenience and if you cannot attend you will be referred to school disciplinary action.

For serious abuses of school policies I will assign you a school detention with Ms.Marren or Mrs.Scoville.

Academic Honesty: All homework assignments, quizzes and tests are to be completed without assistance from your colleagues unless otherwise directed. Students found to have collaborated on Independent Studies will each receive a grade of 0%.



Cellphones in the Classroom: It is my expectation that student cellphones will not be taken out during class time(from 'bell to bell'). This is our default policy. If a student requests to use their phone in SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, they MAY be granted permission to do so by the teacher on a case by case basis. I will only say "yes" in true emergency situations or for academic reasons.

Retake Cards & Test Retakes

I am a big fan of awarding students for academic action 'beyond the call of duty'. My system of rewards involves the use of "Retake Cards". I award these cards for the following: answering questions in class, 'rapid review' and as prizes for review games and board games

- Class Participation:** You may earn one Retake Card per day simply by raising your hand and offering an answer to one of Mr.Smith's questions.
- Rapid Review Questions:** Sometimes I will use the last few minutes of class for a "Rapid Review" session for a little extra review of information learned that day. In this case, you may earn an additional card beyond the class participation card earned earlier in the period.
- Winning Games:** We play many games in my class, and victors are awarded Retake Cards!
- Unlocking Retakes:** The "Test Retake System" will be explained in the future.

Cordiality

I consider it my privilege to have you as my student. I ask for the honor of your politely greeting me as you arrive to class(where I will likely be at the door). I do not always have the time to interact with every student in a short class period, so I appreciate that in our greeting each other at least I have had the chance to recognize you each day. Thanks!