

11th Grade American History

Pre-1492 to the Present



Contact Information

Teacher: Ms. Slomski

Extra Help: Schedule by Appointment

Our Purpose

To learn how to apply historical thinking and civic reasoning skills to past and present events with empathy and respect for ourselves and others - while intentionally building a safe and scholarly community

Supplies Needed

- **Binder or Folder** - to store notes packets and other course materials; all materials will come pre-punched for a binder
- **Writing Utensils** - pens, pencils, highlights, markers - whatever supplies work best for you - do be sure to have a black pen or pencil to use for in-class assignments that will be submitted for grading
- **Notebook or Loose-Leaf Paper** - for in-class work and projects

Thematic Approach

Our class consists of thematic units. Why?

1. We naturally think about things by topic rather than purely chronologically - thematic units will help us to make deeper connections between ideas, concepts, and events
2. Survey classes cannot cover every historical detail - thematic units will allow us to focus on high priority topics
3. A common critique of survey history classes is that they do not make it to current events and do not always feel relevant to your lives - thematic units will allow us to talk about contemporary events and issues multiple times throughout the school year.

Units of Study

1. Introduction: Historian Bootcamp & National History Day Project Workshop
2. We Were Here First & We're Still Here: Indigenous American History
3. Federal Foundations: From Revolution to Reform - U.S. Government/Civics
4. Work Hard for the Money: Labor in America
5. Home Sweet Home: Immigration and Citizenship
6. All Eyes on Me: Imperialism and Colonization
7. War, What Is It Good For?: Local Conflicts to Global Warfare
8. We're Not Gonna Take It: Protest and Resistance
9. What Do We Do Now?: Historians as Involved Citizens, Activists, and Public Educators

Class Expectations

- Our classroom is a discussion-based community of empathy and respect - first and foremost, you are expected to treat our class topics and each other with kindness and respect
- All homework must be submitted to PSL. I will make a note if you should bring a copy to class.
- If you are unable to submit your homework on time, please reach out via email to let me know the following:
 - Which assignment will be late
 - When you will submit the work
 - If you need any help or have any questions regarding the assignment
- Most class days will begin with a Focused Free Write (aka a 'Do Now'). You are expected to come into the classroom, get settled, and begin work on the Free Write right away.
- In the first weeks of school we will create a Class Contract, you are expected to live up to that contract throughout the school year.
- If you miss class for any reason, you are responsible for that day's notes and information. You are expected to first reach out to your class partner for this information. I am also available to meet with you to discuss the day's information, but it is your responsibility to schedule that appointment.
- If you are going to miss a quiz OR if you need extended time, please submit the "Alternate Testing Time" Google Form (available on our main class page on PSL) at least 48 hours in advance - and the earlier the better - of the scheduled time.
- Accommodations: If you have accommodations, we have a responsibility to each other. You are responsible for reminding me if, in human error, I do not provide you with the support you need. It is my responsibility to stay up-to-date on your needs and to provide the appropriate support.
- Communication: You are expected to communicate any questions/concerns via email. You are also expected to respond to emails as soon as you can - I will respond to emails within 24 hours (except during vacations/breaks when I will answer as soon as I can).
- Extra Help: If you need help in our class, I encourage you to email me to schedule an extra help session with me.

- Writing Lab: If you need help with your writing, I encourage you to make an appointment with the Writing Lab
- COVID & Remote Protocols: Our class will follow all Birch Wathen Lenox School policies; I will provide any updates to these policies throughout the school year. You are expected to follow all of these policies respectfully.

Grading Breakdown

- Daily Homework: 25%
- Projects: 25%
- National History Day Project & Participation: 25%
- Assessments (Quizzes): 10%
- Participation: 15%

Grading Policies

- Assignments marked with an asterisk cannot be submitted late for full credit because they are needed for an in-class activity- but will be accepted with a 20% deduction applied
- As soon as you know that an assignment will not be submitted on time, please reach out via email to communicate when you will be able to submit it and if you have any questions/need help in order to successfully complete the assignment
- All other assignments will be accepted at any time ***with communication***. If I do not hear from you and assignments only appear in PSL, the below policies may not apply to your late work.
 - If submitted in the correct quarter, the assignment will be graded for full potential credit
 - If submitted in a later quarter, an initial 20% deduction will be applied
- Exceptions to all policies possible with communication

National History Day (NHD)

- NHD (www.nhd.org) is a program that encourages students to explore historical topics and create projects to share what they learned during the research and development process
- Our first semester-long project will be to create a project for NHD
- This year's theme is Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, and Consequences
- Everyone will be required to participate in the school-level event during Exam Week
- Students will have an opportunity to compete in the NYC-level competition (typically in February). If you win your category and/or are selected by the judges, you may be able to compete in the regional-, state-, and national-level competitions
- We will complete frequent assignments throughout the semester to support your completion of this project
- Specific guidelines, dates, and suggestions are available on PSL