

Ms. Dana Detterich

(A.K.A.) Agent Y

Alliance Virgil Roberts
Leadership Academy
United States History

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Syllabus 8th Grade United States History and Social Studies

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to teach 8th graders HOW to think NOT WHAT to think, to give them an opportunity to voice their thoughts and ideas about United States history. I promise to help students build their critical thinking skills in reading, thinking, writing, listening, and researching. I promise to train them, to the best of my ability, to become EXCELLENT historians. **Welcome to The Time Machine!**

Office Hours for Parents	By appointment. Please contact me through Parent Square to schedule a time.
Office Hours for Students	By appointment. Please email me directly or through Google Classroom to schedule.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

A. GOALS

This United States history course is designed to

- prepare students for high school history courses, especially toward readiness in Advanced Placement (AP) classes.
- prepare students for the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) taken before entering university
- engage students to participate in the economic, social, and political events of the day
- educate students about their individual and civil rights, and teach them how to inform others of those rights
- build each student's global communication skills

B. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will have acquired:

- effective study skills, critical thinking habits of mind, and the abilities to read, think, and write like a historian
- the ability to reflect on academic performance and change behaviors in order to improve or to seek help
- to use instructional rubrics to self-monitor and self-assess their learning
- a social science and academic vocabulary that they can use to understand the world around them
- an in-depth knowledge of American history, as well as the ability to ask questions and to evaluate information.
- **the ability to read, write, listen, and conduct research at the 8th grade level and beyond.**

C. CLASS FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

☀ Main Format:

- **Discovery Techbook** is an online textbooks. All students login using their school email.
- **Assignments** and **resource links** are given to students through a **Digital Agenda** and the **Google Classroom**
- **Students MUST** place ALL assignments in their **Student Portfolio Google Doc** to get feedback and grades. There will be one portfolio doc PER semester.
- **Students will engage in and be graded on assignments such as**, BUT NOT LIMITED TO daily reading and writing, primary and secondary source analysis, current events, lecture, individual and group projects, discussion, debate, research, writing multiple page, formal essays
(Writing assignments will require prewriting, editing, and drafting, before the final paper is submitted).

☀ Expectations:

- Be on time!
- Be respectful!
- Follow on and offline rules and protocols
- Complete all assignments and follow ALL directions and school rules
- Place your learning and the learning of others above all else.



Course details

This course is based on [8th grade United States history content standards](#) and 6th through [8th grade Common Core Social Science Standards](#). Our main textbook is online [Discovery Techbook](#), but we also use YouTube videos, current event articles, news sources such as New York Times, Times, the Atlantic, Los Angeles Times, NEWSELA, National Archives, Smithsonian Magazine, and more. If you know anyone willing to be a guest speaker for our class, please contact me!

A. Late Work & Grading

1. If a student is absent, assignments due during their absence can be submitted up to three days late for full credit. The student will lose 10% of overall credit for each day the assignment is late after those three days.
2. If assignments are turned in ON TIME, students may redo, retake, or revise assignments. This must be done and turned in within two weeks of the due date of the assignment.
3. **Grading:** Please refer to the grade book and the Alliance Virgil Robert Leadership Academy grading policies.

B. SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THIS CLASS:

- 2 Composition notebooks
- 1 set of highlighters - multiple colors
- Pens and Pencils (erasers)

C. Homework

1. Homework is every day and includes reading and rereading, taking, finishing, adjusting, or studying notes, and writing, rewriting, or researching depending upon the week's lesson listed in the digital agenda.

D. Attendance

1. Students are expected to arrive on time daily, no exceptions
2. Tardy and absent students will be reported to the office through PowerSchool

E. ZOOM & Online learning policies

1. See school-wide policies provided by the office.

F. Cell Phones & Restrooms (upon return to on-campus learning)

1. NO CELL PHONES AT ANY TIME. THEY WILL BE COLLECTED IMMEDIATELY.
2. Students are required to turn in their cell phone during morning advisory and secured in a locked iPad cart.
3. If a student is found with a phone it will be taken and consequences given.
4. NO RESTROOM BREAKS DURING CLASS TIME unless a note from a parent or guardian is provided ahead of time.

CONSEQUENCE STEPS FOR NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS

in the event of a serious infraction (fighting, etc..) I may go straight to step 3

1. Verbal warning
2. Call home through Parent Square
3. Referral to office



SIGN THIS SYLLABUS DIGITALLY BY AUGUST 21, 2020

DIGITAL SIGNING CHOICES

1. Email me (ddetterich@laalliance.org) to say you've read this syllabus.
2. Use [Parent Square](#) or [Student Square](#) to tell me you've read this syllabus
3. [Join Google Classroom](#) (code: r2shkqp) and message me that you've read this syllabus.