**US History Course Syllabus
Miss Natalie Kainz, Room R8
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**Class Content**

Welcome to our US History course for the 2013-2014 school year at ASK! This course is designed to give you the knowledge and skills you need to interpret the history of the United States of America and critically analyze its current role in our world. In this class we will learn about the creation and rise of the United States of America as a global superpower. We will analyze what its role in the world was throughout history, and what it is today. We will begin studying Westward Expansion and end up in current time by the end of the year.

Your active participation is extremely important in this class. One of my goals as your teacher is to have you develop confidence in your own ideas and opinions, and feel comfortable sharing and even debating them with your peers. You cannot develop these skills unless you are willing to practice and work together. If you will truly become a leader of your community and country, you must be able to **communicate clearly with others, research issues thoroughly, debate, negotiate, and compromise**. These five key skills are what I hope to develop in this class with you.

**Assessment:**  **Test and Unit Assessments 30%
Quiz 10%
Homework 10%
Class Participation 20%
Papers and Projects 30%**

**Tests and Unit Assessments** will vary from unit to unit, ranging from a classic test, to essays, to debates. Quizzes will be held in the middle of each unit to check your understanding and help you prepare for the end of the unit assessment. **Homework** will be given occasionally, so when it is assigned, it is critical that you do it. I only assign important homework that will enrich your knowledge of a topic or idea, which you will need for the next day or so in class to be able to participate. Both group and individual **projects** will be assigned throughout the year. The one major project I hope to do is a full year cross-cultural exchange project with students in Madison, Wisconsin- more information on this to come in the following weeks.

**You will be given 2 participation points each day in class.** All you need to do is show up to class prepared to learn and be engaged in class, and you will get those points automatically. However, if you are absent and fail to make up the class work, you will lose those points. If you come to class unprepared (no pencil, no notebook, no homework…) you will also lose those points. If you are behaving inappropriately in any way that is disruptive or distracting after a personal warning, you will also lose those points. Not speaking in English will also cause you to lose these points.
Once you lose your 2 points you will have to fill out a behavior reflection guide, and after receiving two of those I will set up a meeting with administration and your parents. This is an easy way to keep your grade up. These points will add up, and poor behavior and poor preparation can harm your grade, even if you do well on assessments and other class work.

**Behavior and Expectations:
Respect**Everyone in the classroom will be treated with respect. It’s simple: treat others how you want to be treated yourself. Put forth your best effort at all times and you will be successful. **Respect everyone. Respect environment. Respect education.**

**Academic Integrity**I also expect academic integrity from you. Take pride in your work, in your own thoughts and ideas. You are too intelligent to use someone’s work that is not your own. I do not care what anyone thinks but you. It is **easy** for me to tell when you are using someone else’s work, so just don’t do it. It is not worth the risk. Please refer to the student handbook for a more detailed description on plagiarism and the consequences.

**Attendance**
You are responsible for being present, on time and prepared for class daily. In the event of an absence, you will be held responsible for any missing work (I will not hunt you down for it). Failure to show on test day or date of assessment (quiz, presentation, etc.) will result in an automatic zero unless parent notification can be provided by the administration stating it was an excused absence. Finally, by ASK policy, 10 absences (either excused, unexcused or a combination) will result in a review of your performance and possible failure in this course.

**Organization and Materials**
Being organized makes your life easier. Please use your student planner to keep track of all assignments, tests, and readings. I help you out with the website, so there is no excuse for being unprepared. You must bring a pen or pencil and your history notebook with you to class each day. If you fail to do so, you will lose participation points for the day. **You must have one notebook, only for history, that you will turn in to me each week to be graded.** I will be grading the notes you take in class, your warm-ups, and in class quick writes- this is most of your homework grade.

**Class Website**: <http://askmissnatalie.weebly.com/>

The website above is our class website. Please put this in your phones and computers and save it as a favorite. On the website you can go to the page for our class and see what we do in class each day, along with any homework, readings, and reminders. Sometimes you will be required to use the website for certain assignments, so please check it out. If you are absent for any reason, I expect that you will check the website and know what you missed even before you come to class the next day. It is up to you to ask questions if you do not understand directions, or it you need materials to make up your work.

**Textbook:** *Created Equal: A History of the United States,* 3rd ed., Prentice Hall, 2011
\*all textbooks will be returned in the same condition you received them in at the end of the school year

**Communication and Extra Help:** I am here before school, after school, and on my breaks to help you if you need it. It is best to let me know a day or so ahead of time to make sure I don’t have a meeting, but even if you drop by unannounced I will usually have time to talk. Please don’t be shy and let me know when you need to talk or need help with something. I am also available via email if you have questions in the evening- however do not expect an immediate response, and **if it is after 7pm do not expect a response at all.**

**Extra Credit Policy:** I will only offer one extra credit opportunity each semester. The first regarding the Social Issues Conference and the second will have to do with our ASK/JMM project.

**Power School:** I will be using the Power School system for all grading and attendance purposes. I will keep it updated almost daily, so please make sure you and your parents know your log-ins and attend the power school training sessions. This is an incredible tool to help you and your parents keep track of your progress in this class, so please use it. I will not be showing you your grade during class, because now you will be able to look it up on your own!

\*NOTE: The teacher has the right to revise and alter any content of this syllabus to better suit the needs of the classroom learning environment. All information is classroom policy/ procedure until otherwise stated.

**I have read or have had this US History Syllabus read to me and thoroughly understand all that it entails and I agree follow its policies.**

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**Please let me know of any concerns you have about your child in this course, or any information you would like to share about your child:**

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