

“Who We Are Is Who We Were”

U.S. History

Full Year

Me: Brian F. Busker (Mr. Busker to you)
Home Phone: (507) 442-5095 (no later than 10:00 p.m.)

Philosophy of Education:

I believe we are all made in the image of God, and as such, should treat each other with dignity and respect. Failure to do so will bring with it consequences. All of history is God’s history and fits into His (our) story of redemption. It is from this perspective and framework that I teach.

Subject:

U.S. History is for 11th grade students. This is to be taken in your junior year and is the second history course required of you. This is a general survey course and you need this course to graduate. If you fail this course, you will have to take it again.

U.S. History is a course that is in full alignment with all of the Social Studies Program goals, and in particular, with #6, #9-12 which deal with worldview, historical perspective, human nature, current issues and corporate memory.

The 1st Semester U.S. History course covers roughly from 1780—1865 (chapters 1-11, omitting ch 4-5). 2nd Semester U.S. history covers roughly from 1865-1955 (chapters 12-25). I have divided U.S. History into various eras/epochs that you will have to learn and be examined on. This is done to encourage a big picture approach to the study of history so you have the end in mind and are able then to compartmentalize the information as we go along.

Historical Eras:

Colonial America (1608-1770)	[1-3]
American Revolution (1770-1780)	[4-5]
Emerging Nation (Virginia Dynasty) (1780-1823)	[6]
Jacksonian Democracy (1824-1839)	[7]
Manifest Destiny (1840-1850)	[9]
Sectionalism (1850-1860)	[10]
Civil War (1861-1865)	[11]
Reconstruction (1865-1870)	[12]
Gilded Age & Big Business (1870-1899)	[13-15]
Progressive Era (1900-1913)	[17-18]
World War I (1914-1918)	[19]
Roaring Twenties (1919-1928)	[20]
Depression & New Deal (1929-1935)	[21-22]
World War II (1936-1945)	[23-24]
Cold War (1946-1990)	[25-?]
Global World (1990-2000)	
War on Terror (2001-2010)	
_____ (2011- _____)	

Materials:

- Three ring binder or Folder
- Textbook
- Pencil, Pen
- Frederick Douglass--a book we read first semester

Classroom Policies and Expectations:

- When the bell rings you must be in the room *and on your way to your assigned seat*. Not adhering to this will incur a tardy from which five accumulations of such an offense is punishable by a detention.
- **All** Cell Phones are to be placed in the drawer in the front of the room. Any cell phone seen or used during class without prior permission will be confiscated and turned in to the administration per the school policy.
- Talking out of turn (especially when I am talking) is ill-advised and continuing to do so at inappropriate times will result in OBT or some other form of justice.
- One must adhere to the student handbook concerning clothing and dress. Obvious rebellion of it will allow you to be kicked out of my classroom and sent to the office.
- Assignments are due the day assigned by the beginning of classtime unless otherwise noted.
- If you miss class, **YOU** are responsible for getting the information talked about from a fellow classmate or myself. Missing the day before a test or quiz will still result in you taking the examination on the assigned day, unless special arrangements are made by taking the issue up with me at least one period prior to the event.
- If you are absent the day of a test or quiz it is once again **YOUR** responsibility to make arrangements with me to make it up.
- Late papers will not be accepted on full credit, unless special circumstances arise. I, and I alone, hold the ability to deduct points on late papers, and I will do it depending on the degree of the assignment and the degree of lateness. Get the work in on time and you will avoid having me reduce them.
- Throwing objects across the room or at people is childish and inappropriate. If you choose to be immature in this way then an automatic 5 minute OBT will be instituted for the end of the day for you to sweep my room.

Discipline:

Respect and Christian Love must be present at all times. Inappropriate conduct or behavior, whether it be disturbing class and/or being disrespectful to me or a fellow student in any way, will result in OBT, a detention and/or your expulsion from my classroom.

OBT (Owe Busker Time), simply put, is that if you waste my time after a warning or two then you owe me time. Think of it as a mini-detention of varying lengths. You have two days to make up the time with me. If you fail to make it up in time you will get one more chance; otherwise, I will contact home and make it an official detention with our administration.

Major Assignments:

First semester's major assessments and assignments include, but are not exclusive to, the following:

- ☑ 8-9 Tests (Ch1-3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)
- ☑ Numerous Quizzes
- ☑ Colonial Brochure Group Project?
- ☑ American Revolution P.P.P.
- ☑ *Frederick Douglass* quizzes (3)
- ☑ Civil War P.P.P.

Second semester's major assessments and assignments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ☑ 7-8 Tests (Ch12, 13-15, 17-18, 19, 20, 21-22, 23-24, 25)
- ☑ Numerous Quizzes
- ☑ WWII P.P.P.
- ☑ Group Presentation on a chapter

--A P.P.P. is a personal preference paper where you pick any topic, person, event, etc. related to the era and write a 2-3 page paper.

Grading:

I grade by a point system taking the total possible and dividing it by the total amount received by you the student. The points will be added from daily assignments, projects, quizzes, papers, and tests. Class participation and attitude are the wild cards in this scheme and can either raise or lower your final grade. The final grade is weighted where each quarter is 40% and the exam is 20%; however, second semester has 3rd quarter 35%, 4th quarter 40% and the exam worth 25%.

Grading Scale: 100-97 = A
96-94 = A-
93-90 = B+
89-86 = B
85-83 = B-
82-79 = C+
78-75 = C
74-72 = C-
71-68 = D+
67-64 = D
63-60 = D-

Extra Credit:

Extra Credit will be possible for this history course. Either I will present the option during class or offer an opportunity for you to get a hold of me if this sounds helpful to you. It will not be a dramatic shift in your grade but it will help it. If anything, it will provide some psychological influence for me when calculating your final grade.

Extra Help:

I am available pretty much all through the day outside of class and after school until 4:00 p.m. Feel free to contact me if you need help with anything so we can sit down some time and figure out the problem. Feel free to call me if needs be, but if it can wait then get a hold of me at school the next day.

I hope and pray this will be a good year and if the above is followed by you as well as me then we should have no problem accomplishing this goal.

D.V.