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**Diana LeBaron Bass**

**NUAMES Early college High School**

**"Diligence is the mother of good luck."**

*Benjamin Franklin*

**August 24, 2016-June 3, 2017**

# Course Description

The course will be taught with an emphasis placed on major themes as they unfold throughout the nation's history. Students enrolled in the course will cultivate higher-order thinking and writing skills that will be assessed through essays, various writing activities, quizzes, and tests. Furthermore, students will apply their historical analysis during class discussions, mock trials, debates, presentations, and more.

The course is centered on the skill of critical thinking. To develop critical thinking skills students will assess historical materials, weigh scholarly arguments, and place historical evidence in a relevant context. Persuasive writing and speaking skills will be taught and emphasized throughout the course. Throughout the course, historical material will be tied back into current day issues in order to provide a sense of relevance and perspective. The course scope and rigor will help prepare students for future academic pursuits.

# Course Objectives

* **History:** Students will gain and historical perspective of American Civilization, to include a basic knowledge of the historical method with its reliance on evidence, skepticism, criticism, and the recognition of bias
* **Principles:** Students will come to understand the concepts of republicanism, democracy, due process of law, equal protection, inalienable rights, and civil rights
* **Form of Government:** Students will come to understand the workings of government at the national, state, and local levels
* **Economic:** Students will come to understand the transformation of the US from an agrarian-based to an industrial-based to an information-based economy. Students will come to understand to consequences of those transformations on various groups of people in the US
* **Diversity:** Students will gain appreciation for the rich cultural heritage of the American people and the ways in which race, class, gender, sexual orientation, creed, and national origin intersect to define us as individuals and as members of groups

# Course Scope and Outline:

The course offers a wide variety of instructional activities, including writing assignments, document-based questions, threaded discussions, and primary source reading material

**First and Third Term topics include**

* The Historian’s Craft and Course Introduction
* US Geography and Geography as Destiny
* Native Americans and their historical experience
* The Voices of Women in our historical narrative
* Foundations of the Republic and Political Participation (Constitution, Presidential Roundtable, Political Parties, and Supreme Court Cases)
* Required novel *Summer of 1787,* by David O. Stewart (student provided)

**Second and Fourth Term topics include:**

* American Identity and Immigration
* The American Dream and how the Other Half Lives
* Milestones in African American History and the Civil Rights Movement
* Diverse Voices
* War at home and abroad
* The Recent Past (1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and early 21st Century)
* Oral History
* *Required Novel (student provided): The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien

# Course Format:

Units provide students with a variety of learning activities, including the following:

* Interpret timelines
* Demonstrate insight, prior knowledge and analysis in journal entries
* Identity the significance of historical figures, events, literary works, and treaties
* Respond to questions that require comprehension and application of ideas
* Read and respond to ideas in primary and secondary source material
* Go beyond text reading to access authentic manuscripts, participate in virtual museum tours, and watch appropriate films
* Organize and defend ideas with visual representations, such as graphic organizers
* Write thematic and document-based essays
* Participating in discussions about course content
* Engage in historical simulations such as the trials, debates, guest speaker demonstrations, round tables, and more.

# Course Goals:

**Students will**

* Perform well in the course, with a final grade of C or higher (A "C" or higher must be earned to receive University credit for the course)
* Improved writing skills
* Build understanding of principle themes, events, and figures in US history
* Analyze and organize data and historical evidence
* Analyze information in historical sources
* Demonstrate higher-order thinking skills within a rigorous format
* Cultivate skills that will help them in other educational pursuits

# Course Themes:

Each theme can be traced throughout the course to varying degree:

American Diversity (race, class, ethnicity, and gender)

American Identity/American Exceptionalism

Reform/Social Change

Culture (literature, art, music, philosophy, theatre, and film)

Demographic Changes within the American Population

Changes within the American Economy/Legacy of Capitalism

Environmental Attitudes and Policies

Increasing/Decreasing Trends of Globalization

Role of Religion in America

Conflict and Diplomacy

# Required Materials:

*The Summer of 1787*, by David O. Stewart (first term)

*The Things They Carried,* by Tim O'Brien (second term)

Course textbook: *American History, Connecting with the Past*, by Alan Brinkley

Paper and writing utensils

Folder for term portfolios

# Course Policies/Procedures:

In order to maintain an effective learning atmosphere, the following procedures are implemented and posted in the classroom:

1. Be CONCIDERATE to and REPECTFUL of the teacher and classmates
2. Be AWAKE, ALERT, ON TIME, and POSITIVE
3. Take care of classroom property
4. FOCUS on history, not from other classes
5. Electronic devices should be turned off and out of sight (unless used for class-related work)

# Citizenship

* Students begin each quarter with 25/25 citizenship points
* Students gain citizenship points for exceptionally good behavior, following course policies, and contributing to a positive classroom climate
* Students lose citizenship points for violating course policies/procedures, being tardy to class points/tardy) or having unexcused absences
* Points can also be deducted for excessive excused tardies and absences
* Final citizenship grades will be assigned accordingly
* 25 + points = Honors (H)
* 16-24 points = Satisfactory (S)
* 11-15 points = Need Improvement (N)
* 0-10 points = Unsatisfactory (U)

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King Jr.

# Additional Course Expectations

* One exception card will be issued/quarter. The card allows a student to turn in an assignment (unless otherwise notified) one day late for full credit. If student does not use the exception card, she can submit it for 20 points extra credit at the end of the term
* Students are expected to dress appropriately and modestly for class. Ms. Bass as "lovely ensembles" that students may be asked to sport if distracting and revealing clothing is worn
* Students are expected to work cooperatively with groups. If a student's wishes to work independently, he/she should notify Ms. Bass.

# Attendance

* Class attendance is imperative. You will receive a participation and attendance score on your grade.
* If you are absent, check the absent log and submit work within the number of days that you were absent (missing four days gives you four days to make up work).
* All tests/COLs need to be made up by the Friday after they were taken in class.
* Extenuating situations such as health concerns will be considered.

# Grading Policies

* All assignments based on a 100% mastery scale
* Assignments including but are not limited to:
* Log entries
* Portfolios
* Essays
* Video Essays
* Presentations
* Simulations
* Debates
* Discussions
* Currents Event Assignments
* Reader's Journals
* Everything created in class or for homework should be saved as it may appear in the term portfolio.
* **ONE LATE ASSIGNMENT IS ACCEPTED PER TERM**. Assignments will be accepted on the due date and in the class in which a student is enrolled. Homework is due at the beginning of class. Students can submit one late assignment per term.
* Exams and quizzes need to be made up by the Friday after the student's absence.
* All questions about grades must be cleared up by the Friday after they are posted.
* Students are welcome to discuss their grades before or after school
* If a student has an excused absence, he/she has as many days as she was absent top makeup all missed work. Thus, if Becca was absent four days, she has four days to make up work
* Consult the class website for daily activities and handouts <http://dianabass.yolasite.com/>

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

**Theodore Roosevelt**

**Grading Scale**

* Grades are not rounded up in this class.
* Grades are only changed when the teacher has made an error. Ms. Bass needs to be notified by mid-term after the term in question or by the end of June for fourth term.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 93-100% | A | 73-76% | C |
| 90-92% | A- | 70-72% | C- |
| 87-89% | B+ | 67-69% | D+ |
| 83-86% | B | 63-66% | D |
| 80-82% | B- | 60-62% | D- |
| 77-79% | C+ |  |  |

**Cheating/Plagiarism**

* In brief, do NOT do this. Cheating is any act that "defrauds, deceives or employs trickery" in order to obtain credit for work which has not been completed. Plagiarism is the "act of passing off the ideas of another as one's own work." Anyone who cheats will receive a failing grade on the said assignment, a call or letter home, and points deducted from citizenship.

**Moo-Lah**

* Moo-lah can be earned through incredible participation, leadership in group activities, going the extra mile, or through vario8us classroom activities. Each moo-lah counts for two points extra credit.

Extra Credit

* Extra credit is extended to all students who have a Citizenship H or S
* Extra Credit can improve a student's grade by a maximum of one-half grade.
* Extra credit options will be provided throughout each term.
* Extra credit is extended to all students who have a C or higher in the class.
* Logs or journal entries will be kept and submitted at the end of a term. Log and Reflection journals will be used throughout a given class period.

"Americans are like a rich father who wishes he knew how to give his son the hardships that made him rich."

**- Robert Frost**

**This is going to be a great semester!**

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