

Basic
United States History
Survival Guide
2020 - 2021

UNITED STATES HISTORY

American History

Mr. Leonard, Room 308

E-mail: cleonard@idaschools.org

Office Hours: 7:30am – 3:25pm during in-person days; 7:30am – 4pm on virtual days.

Google Classroom Code: okycroe

Hybrid Learning Format:

Course Structure:

- ✓ Most Assignments will be posted by Thursday at 4pm each week. They are due by 11:59 on the following Thursday. Some spontaneous assignments may emerge, and adequate time to complete will be allowed.
- ✓ Instruction will take place as a blend through Google Classroom and in-person instruction. Through Google Classroom, this will happen via the posting of notes, assignments, videos (some of which created by me), and other materials. In-person instruction will be reserved for answering questions, clarifying facts and/or procedures, supporting student learning, and assessment
- ✓ I anticipate, on average, there will be 3-5 hours of work per week outside of face-to-face instruction.

Communication Structure:

- ✓ I define “office hours” as the time periods in which you can expect a reasonably quick response to a question or concern. My office hours are 7:30am – 3:25pm during in-person days; 7:30am – 4pm on virtual days.
- ✓ You can reach me at cleonard@idaschools.org (best option) or by calling 734.269.9003, ext 1308 and leaving a message.
- ✓ I **do not** respond, in any form to “private comments” on Google Classroom. Do not try to contact me with a question or concern in this manner.

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Class Materials Needed On a Daily Basis for In-Person Learning:

- 70-sheet spiral notebook to be used as a vocabulary journal for this class only
- Pens/Pencils/Paper for daily note-taking etc...

Other Course Materials (Recommended based on past experiences)

- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Separate folder/binder for this class only
- If you are comfortable, a device for connecting to the internet. At least for first two weeks of school.

Materials Needed for Virtual Learning

- Internet Access
- Device
- Google Classroom code
- Any notes from in-person learning

Academic Grades

This class utilizes a **weighted-point** scale in which all categories of assignments are given a percentage weight and averaged together. Grades are typically updated once per week.

- ✓ Letter grades will be given based on the following scale:
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------------|---|
| 93 - 100 | A | 87 - 89 | B+ | 77 - 79 | C+ | 67 - 69 | D+ | 59.4 or below | F |
| 90 - 92 | A- | 83 - 86 | B | 73 - 76 | C | 63 - 66 | D | | |
| | | 80 - 82 | B- | 70 - 72 | C- | 60 - 62 | D- | | |

- ✓ Grading Categories:

Name of Category in Home Access Center	Description	Weight
Tests and Quizzes	All Formal Assessments	80%
Projects	Short and Long-Term Projects, Enrichment, and investigations.	

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Everything else we do	Critical Thinking, Lesson Checkpoints, Textbook Analysis Independent Readings, Exit Passes, Historical Inquiries Lesson Vocabulary Examinations and Assessments	20%
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Course Rules:

1. **Disruption of education will not be tolerated.** Continued disruption/disrespect will result in disciplinary action.
2. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a loss of credit for the assignment and disciplinary action.
3. All work must be **completed and submitted on time.**
4. There is absolutely **no talking** during tests or presentations. Talking during these times could result in loss of points/credit.
5. No assignments will be accepted for credited **after the day they are due**, unless otherwise noted. Work that is missing in the gradebook will count as a zero unless it has been excused.

Absences & Make-up work

The nature of this school year will actually lessen the impact of you being absent a day in my class. Most classwork will be posted and due in Google Classroom already. However, if you are absent, or will be absent, here is what you should do:

- ✓ Email me, or have a parent email me, at cleonard@idaschools.org. If there are any instructions or notes I can give you, I'll respond.
- ✓ **If you missed on a test or quiz day, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for test or quiz make-up.** If you do not make arrangements to make these up, you will be unable to make up the test or quiz and it will count as a zero.
- ✓ If at all possible, **try to do something at home** that will help keep you on track to complete your week's work on time. Sometimes this will not be possible. Just do your best.
- ✓ If you are struggling to make-up missing work, talk to me or have a parent call me and we can work out the details. But, I can't help if I don't know.

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Responsibilities for the Class:

Teacher Responsibilities

- Make all assignments and hybrid learning activities available in a timely manner.
- Be available at scheduled times to answer student/caregiver questions.
- Provide timely feedback on student work. Grades will be posted in Home Access Center upon completion of work. Grades will reflect test and quiz scores, accuracy of classwork/homework, completion of work, and engagement/effort of the student.
- Provide deeper instruction and support during in-person learning times
- Communicate regularly with students
- Provide a range of meaningful learning opportunities that meet the needs of all learners
- Provide regular feedback to students on progress related to learning activities.

Student Responsibilities

- Review and keep track of assigned work.
- Complete your assigned work by the due date.
- Study and prepare for tests and quizzes.
- Monitor your progress on Home Access Center
- Ask clarifying questions when you need help or don't understand
- Be respectful to yourself, teachers and peers during in-person times

Parent/Caregiver/ Family Responsibilities

- Review work assigned to the student.
- Monitor progress on Home Access Center
- Reserve a space for students to complete remote learning work.
- Encourage students to get enough sleep.
- Set sensible time limits for technology use.
- Talk to students about their work every day.
- Help students establish and follow regular daily routines
- Communicate with teacher regarding questions or concerns

Curriculum:

The curriculum for this grade level/content area (United States History) is no less than our established curriculum, which is posted on our website, for our traditional 180 days of face-to-face instruction

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I'm struggling to do well in class! What can I do?

It is likely that at one point or another during the year you will struggle with a lesson, assignment, project, or quite simply understanding the basics of a lesson or topic. Below is a list of ideas or strategies to consider if you reach that point.

1. Cornell Note EVERYTHING

In this class you will learn a quick and simple way to effectively take notes and organize your thoughts. This will be done by using the Cornell Method of Note-Taking. You should use Cornell Notes for all readings, lectures, film clips, and maybe even certain assessments. This will help you stay organized, structured, and focused when it is time to study.

2. Use Google Classroom every single day, multiple times a day:

The course website may be the single most useful tool to help you succeed in this class. Teacher notes, slideshows, videos, and other course materials will be available throughout the year. Furthermore, the class (tentative) schedule, opportunities for extra credit, and bonus review material will be posted.

3. Study!!!!

This one should be obvious, but many students fail to understand the importance of studying. This class will emphasize critical thinking and a full understanding of concepts rather than simply recalling facts. In order to be prepared for tests and quizzes, you should study for a half-hour to 45 minutes MINIMUM. You should start by examining lesson vocabulary and work to gather your notes and reviews to understand the types of questions that may be asked and how the information fits together.

4. Watch available film clips or presentations 2 or 3 times before tests or quizzes.

As mentioned before, the majority of classroom film clips and presentations will be posted on the website, and many are available via simple Google search. Track them down and watch them again.

5. Do the Available Extra-Credit.

Extra credit opportunities won't always be simple questions or easy assignments. But their impact on your grade can make a massive difference. Some form of extra credit is available each week. This can be one of the quickest ways to build your grade.

If you are doing the above things (No, really doing them—not just saying you are) and you're still struggling, set up a meeting with your teacher. Do not wait until the end of a semester to seek help! Monitor your grade early and often.