

US HISTORY 2018-2019

MR. KOELZER

Course Description

Semester 1 of US History is a continuation of the 8th grade timeline, beginning with Reconstruction through the 1920's. Our focus will be on the major events, movements, and changes that have helped shape the US into what it is today. This class will also focus on reading, writing, note-taking, and test-taking skills.

Grading

Marking Period grade breakdown:

Assessments (Tests/Most Quizzes)	50%
Assignments (Homework/HW Quizzes)	50%

Semester grade breakdown:

Marking Period 1	42%
Marking Period 2	42%
Mid-term Exam	6%
Final Exam	10%

Grading Scale:

93-100=A	87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	59 and below=E
90-92=A-	83-86=B	73-76=C	63-66=D	
	80-82=B-	70-72=C-	60-62=D-	

Tests

Tests consisting of 25 multiple choice questions and a short, written portion will be taken at the end of most units – about every 2-3 weeks. Students will usually have an opportunity to write out corrections or do a retake to improve a score. Details on test corrections/retakes will be given in class. The mid-term/final exams will be district-wide common assessments. The mid-term will be a written essay, while the final will consist of 100 multiple choice questions. We will spend 2-3 days reviewing before the exam.

Quizzes

Frequent quizzes in the middle of a long unit will count as assessments. Unannounced homework quizzes will count as an assignment grade. More details will be given on each type of quiz.

Homework

Homework will be assigned an average of 2-3 nights a week. It will mostly consist of online games or quizzes with occasional written work. Assignments will be DIRECTLY related to the material tested; therefore, failure to complete homework will have an effect on test performance. Late work will be accepted until the end of the unit (score may be reduced). After that it remains a zero.

Supplies

The following supplies will be needed in class each day.

- Folder (for unit objectives and due dates)
- Notebook (for HW and other notes)
- Pen or pencil (pencil highly recommended)
- Textbook (online version also available)

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Citizenship

This classroom is one that promotes learning, respect, and a safe and comfortable environment for students. Any student whose behavior in some way disrupts this environment will be given a courtesy reminder (a reminder to one is a reminder to all). If the student persists, he/she will be politely asked to leave the room. I will meet with the student to try to work together to remedy the situation, but if it continues, a parent and (if necessary) an administrator will be contacted.

A limited amount of passes out of the room will be allowed when necessary. If deemed necessary by an assistant principal, students who abuse this privilege will not be allowed to leave the room.

Cellphones, earbuds, headphones, and other electronics are to be put completely away when the final bell rings. These items may be utilized in class for certain activities or for listening during individual work time. If this policy is abused these items will be completely banned in class.

Attendance

Poor attendance is the number one cause of failure in a class. Therefore, the following rules will be enforced in this room.

- Unexcused absences may result in a loss of credit for work due that day.
- Makeup work related to excused absences will be handled according to the student handbook.
- Final grades WILL be lowered for more than 12 absences.
- Unexcused tardies will be marked in this class. I will give a warning for the first two tardies. After that, detentions, parent contact, and/or administrator contact will result (see handbook). Any student with 2 or less tardies this marking period will be reset to zero for the next.

How to be successful in this class

1. **Come to class and be prepared.** Poor attendance and homework completion are the top causes of low grades in most classes. If you are absent, don't fall behind. Find out what you missed and get it turned in.
2. **Keep up with your grades online and with assignments on the website.** Communicate with classmates or send me an email with questions when necessary.
3. **Unit objectives and due dates will be handed out at the beginning of each unit.** Hang on to them. Use the objectives as a study guide when preparing for a test.
4. **If you need help, see me.** I'm usually available before class and after school. The few that follow this advice usually do better in my classes.
5. **Read everything carefully when taking tests.** If you're not happy with your test score, use your objectives and work on corrections or do a retake.

Contact Info **PLEASE KEEP**

Email: pkoelzer@livoniapublicschools.org – checked throughout the day (best way to contact me)

Link to check grades and attendance: <https://sisweb.resa.net/MISTAR/LivoniaSchools/>

My website link: koelzer.weebly.com

Remind #: 81010. Class Code: @ushmrk (required for students - PARENTS can use this too!)

Online Text link: https://student.teachtci.com/student/sign_in (user id and password will be provided in class)