MR. Catafago’s

Middle School U.S. History Class for 2024-2025

Somerset College Preparatory Academy

Contact Info: Email- [catafago.eric@somersetcollegeprep.org](mailto:catafago.eric@somersetcollegeprep.org), Room #166, School Phone # (772) 343-7028  
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\*Lunch and After School tutoring is on Wednesdays

Supplies: A 3 ring spiral notebook or binder, blue or black pens/pencils, highlighters if you prefer to use them.

Course Objective: This United States History class will help you use and understand primary/secondary sources essential for learning from the Colonial period to Reconstruction periods of the United States. It is important to understand how the United States was created and how the Civil War broke the country apart.

Textbooks: None are required for this course; however some classroom activities will come from *Creating America* -published by McDougal Littell. Copyright 2005.

Grading:

35% - Tests and Quizzes

25%- Homework and Classwork

25%- Projects

15%- Notebook checks

\*Students will be notified of tests with about a week in advance

\*A number of pop quizzes should be expected

-The Final Exam in December will be worth 20% of your grade and everyone is required to take it.

Grading Scale:

A: 100-90% B: 89-80% C: 79-70% D: 69-60% F: 0-59%

Tests and Quizzes: You will be tested on every subject we will learn about in this class. Quizzes will test your prior knowledge and will also be used to assess what still needs to be improved on before a test.

Homework and Classwork: If a classroom activity is not completed the day it was given in class, then that activity must be completed at home. Classwork/homework will include worksheets and activities. Classwork/homework can be submitted electronically or on paper.

Projects- You will have to create a project individually. Projects will include PowerPoint and document-based question essays. Rubrics will be provided for these assignments.

Notebook checks: Will be given out periodically throughout the semester. Students will have to feature notes (lessons) and bellwork (Do Nows) to receive full credit. Students will be given a 3-day notice of when notebook checks will be assigned. Notebook checks can be submitted electronically or by paper. Rubric for the notebook check: 5/5= 100 % All notes and bellwork present, 4/5=80% Missing one of the notes or bellwork, 3/5=60 % Missing two of the notes or bellwork, 2/5=40% Missing three notes or bellwork, 1/5=20% Missing 4 notes or bellwork, 0/5=0% Missing all notes and bellwork.

Class Rules and Expectations:

1. No talking is allowed while the teacher is talking
2. No cell phone use unless the teacher says so (If I see a cellphone out I will issue a warning, second time I see it out it’s a detention)
3. No food is allowed
4. Be on time and ready to work
5. No offensive or vulgar language will be tolerated
6. Respect your classmates and their opinions
7. If you have a question please raise your hand, do not call out
8. Follow directions

## If you disobey the rules and procedures of my class it will result in the following:

1st time – Warning

2nd time –Detention

3rd time – Referral with a phone call home if necessary

Cheating and Plagiarism:

**Academic Dishonesty:**

**Plagiarism** is defined as “the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own”. Plagiarism is a type of cheating and can take many forms, but the most common is copying and using a sentence or multiple sentences from a source as one’s own thoughts and ideas from a text, an online website, or another student. Properly quoting and citing a source is not plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and, per school policy, will result in the assignment receiving a ZERO without the opportunity to redo or make up the assignment, THREE Saturday Detentions, a lunch detention with the teacher to discuss and review citing sources and plagiarism, AND the student will be placed on Behavior Probation (students lose the ability to participate in school events and, if applicable, removal from clubs and sports). If students need to use a source as evidence in a writing assignment, they must properly quote and cite the source. If a student does not know how to do this, he/she should consult the classroom teacher for assistance.

**Cheating** is when a student looks at another student’s work or a teacher’s textbook and uses it to do their own work; receives or provides answers to quiz, test, or other assignment questions; or fabricates information (including using ai) for his/her own personal gain. Cheating is a serious academic offense and, per school policy, will result in the assignment receiving a ZERO without the opportunity to redo or make up the assignment AND THREE Saturday Detentions AND the student will be placed on Behavior Probation (students lose the ability to participate in school events and, if applicable, removal from clubs and sports). It a student does not understand how to do an assignment, rather than cheat, he/she should consult the classroom teacher for assistance.

Restroom Policy: You cannot use the restroom during the first or last 10 minutes of the class. For students in the last period of the school day, you cannot use the bathroom during the last 30 minutes of period. Only one student will be allowed to use the restroom at a time. You will be asked to leave your cellphone on my desk if you are using the restroom. You must sign out with your planner. If you don’t have your planner, then you cannot use the restroom. Do not use another student’s planner.

Absences and Turning in Late work:

-All assignments will be posted to the google classroom webpage, so a student who is absent can catch up on work right away.

-Turning assignments in late: If a student turns in an assignment late, they will lose 10% for each day it is late.

-You are responsible for any work/notes you miss, everything will be posted on the classroom webpage after it is taught. DO NOT write notes you missed in a current class, do it on your own time (That means I should not see you looking on your phone during class to make up notes).

-For each absence, a student has 1 day to turn in an assignment. After that, it will be counted as late with the same rules applying for late work.

**Important Note:**

-There will be a digital classroom calendar which will be updated daily and feature all the do-nows, PowerPoints, links of any videos watched, and handouts from class. Please note skyward grade notifications may go to the spam section of email, please check spam folder for grade notifications.

Student/Parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_