**American History I**

**Grade 10**

**Student Expectations**

*Be prepared and on time*. This means homework should already be turned in to the basket, you are in your assigned seat, and you are working on the warm-up when class begins at 8:30 am. You will have 10 minutes to complete the warm-up. Late students will miss the warm-up and points, and be allowed to join the class when the teacher is ready.

You are no longer freshmen! This means we will expect more maturity from you. You have learned to behave appropriately in a formal learning environment. This means *respectful behavior and language* towards everyone in the classroom. This is especially important in a social studies class, so that we can learn from one another’s life experiences and points of view.

*Active participation* is expected in class. This includes taking active notes, asking questions, engaging in class discussions, staying on task.

**Notebook Checks**

Three times during the semester, we will be having notebook checks. You are expected to have your warm-ups, journal entries, class notes, and homework assignments in your notebooks.

**Books:** Each student will be assigned a copy of Zinn’s *A History of the United States* and be expected to take good care of it throughout the semester.

**Required materials:**

-Pen (black or blue)

-Spiral Notebook

-Folder for keeping handouts and readings

**Grading Policy:**

Late work will only be worth half credit and must be turned in during current unit.

Assessments (Projects, Tests, Quizzes) 30%

Notebook Checks (Including Warm-Ups and Class Notes) 20%

Participation 20%

Homework and Class Assignments 30%

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| **Sophomores Fall Semester 2013** | |
| **Unit I: Early Americans and Empires** | |
| Week 1: **Columbus**   * Should Columbus be celebrated as a great discoverer/conqueror? * The People vs. Columbus, et al. Who is responsible for the genocide of the Taínos?   Week 2: **The Mystery of the Maya**   * Decoding the Mayan glyphs: How do we know about the achievements of the Maya civilization? * The Mystery of 800 AD: What caused the ancient civilization fall apart?   Week 3: **The Aztecs**   * The Legend of Quetzalcoatl * What happened when Moctezuma met Cortes?   Week 4: **Inca: Guns, Germs and Steel**   * What were the immediate factors that allowed Europeans to have a distinct advantage when in conflict against the American Indians? According to Diamond, why did history unfold differently on different continents?   Week 5: **History vs. Hollywood**   * *Apocalypto*, a critical viewing! * Test and Project Due! | Readings:  **Zinn**: Columbus and the Indians: p. 1-21  **MAH:** The Maya P. 33-34  The Toltecs P 35-36 Quetzalcoatl, P 36-38  The Aztecs P 38-42  Diego Rivera’s Murals  Excerpts: Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*  Project Due |
| **Unit II: Slavery** | |
| Week 6 - 10   * What is racism and how has if affected your life? Do you have friends with diverse backgrounds, sexuality, and ideas? We are living in the dark because of prejudice!!! Understanding the cycle of hatred and prejudice!!! * How did slavery change from Black and White to just Black? * Illustrate your understanding of what Zinn calls the “web of historical threads” trapping Blacks in American slavery. * Is slavery the biggest crime in human history? | **Zinn**: Black and White: p. 22-37  *Amistad*, “The Middle Passage” |
| **Unit III: Colonization and American Revolution** | |
| Week 11 – 16  What were the various reasons for colonists to depart for America?   * What were the living conditions in the colonies? * According to Zinn, the language of liberty and equality would become a “wonderfully useful tool” (55). * By who/against whom was this tool used? * When are people justified in rebelling against their government? * What ideals gave birth to the world’s first modern democratic nation? * According to Zinn, what was the main myth of the American Revolution? Who did the Declaration of Independence include as “We the People”? | **Zinn**: Who were the Colonists, p. 39-55  **Zinn**: Tyranny is Tyranny, p. 57-70; Revolutions, p. 71-88 |
| Week 17: FINALS WEEK |  |