**AMERICAN HISTORY I – THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES**

**Spring 2021, Mrs. Leininger**

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**Overview**

Welcome to American History I: Founding Principles. I am excited to begin a new semester and looking forward to a rigorous, yet fun-filled semester. Let me say right away that I have the highest expectations of each and every one of you. It should be your goal to earn an “A” in this class, and I am here to do everything I can to help you achieve at the highest level. During the course of the semester, please do not hesitate to ask me questions and seek extra help when necessary. Below you will find out how your grades will be calculated this semester and a brief description of grading policies, classroom assignments and expectations.

**Course Description**

* This is a survey course. The course begins with the study of the motivations of European Colonization of the Americas and continues through the Reconstruction period following the American Civil War.
* In North Carolina, the study of history no longer supports memorization of unexamined and isolated facts, but emphasizes the thinking skills to detect trends, analyze movements and events and develop a “sense of history”.
* American History is designed to be challenging and requires students to take greater responsibility for their learning by participating in problem seeking and solving, scholarly and creative processes, critical analysis and application, reflective thinking, and the expression and defense of ideas generated through the study of content.
* North Carolina Essential Standards: <https://files.nc.gov/dpi/documents/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/american-history-1.pdf>

**PCHS Basic Expectations**

Students are expected to meet the following:

1. Be Present and On Time
2. Be Prepared and Engaged in Learning
3. Be a Person of Character
4. Be Safe and Comply with all PCHS and WCPSS Policies

**Grades**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nine Weeks Grade – Academic** | **Nine Weeks Grade – Honors** | **Overall Course Grade** |
| * **Major Assignments** – 60%
* **Minor Assignments**– 40%
 | * **Major Assignments** – 60%
* **Minor Assignments**– 40%
 | * **First nine weeks** – 40%
* **Second nine weeks** – 40%
* **Final Exam** – 20%
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**Late Work Policy**

For you to stay current on assignments, especially in this virtual environment, the policy for American History I classes is that the first five school days will not be penalized for minor assessments. After that first “school week”, one late grade will be deducted. For each subsequent five days the assignment is missing, an additional letter grade will be taken.

**Class Meeting Rules**

* Class starts promptly at the designated time. The Google Meet will be open around 5-10 minutes prior to the beginning of class. Please be ready to go *before* class starts so that no time is wasted.
* Attendance is taken automatically through a Google Chrome extension when you log on via your student email. The extension tracks your engagement throughout class as well as when you log in and out of the Meet.
* Minimize distractions during class. Please stay off your phone and remain engaged.
* Communication is key; please ask questions and participate in discussion during our time together.

**Materials**

* Computer and internet with access to Google Classroom, my website ([www.leininger.weebly.com](http://www.leininger.weebly.com)), and PowerSchool.
* Paper for taking notes if your learning style requires. You can type them if you must but writing things down on paper helps you retain material more easily.

**Academic Integrity**

Students will be expected to follow the WCPSS Student Honor Code regarding cheating and plagiarism. The Honor Code can be found here: <https://www.wcpss.net/handbook>

**This syllabus is subject to change based on PLT discretion.**