Mrs. Tracey Ritter

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History and Civics Course

*“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**Description** You will be taking United States History and Civics to learn about our past and to better understand and act in the present. In this class we will cover seven different units that span from the American Revolution to the modern era. Throughout this wide span of time we will also examine the structure and workings of the United States government to prepare you to be actively involved in the democratic process. The following will be the units of study for this course:

**Unit 1: The Foundation of America (American Revolution, Constitution and Expansion)**

**Unit 2: The Civil War, Reconstruction and Industrialization**

**Unit 3: Urbanization, Immigration and Progressivism**

**Unit 4: World War I and the 1920s**

**Unit 5: The Great Depression, New Deal and World War II**

**Unit 6: The Cold War Era**

**Unit 7: Modern America**

*“America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”
~Harry Truman*



**Goals of the Course:**

1. Develop an understanding of the nation’s history through a comprehensive curriculum.

2. Become an informed U.S. citizen in regards to civic responsibility and knowledge of government.

3. Develop and/or improve critical thinking and analytical ability through research.

4. Improve the manner in which research is conducted and documented.

5. Enhance reading, writing and presentation skills.

6. Gain awareness of our nation’s past, present and develop a sense of responsibility for improving our nation.

**Class Materials:**

The textbook that we will be using is *United States History*, and this book needs to be covered throughout the year. I would encourage students to use the online textbook for homework (as it is considerably lighter than your textbook). You can log in to your online textbook at **pearsonsuccessnet.com**. Each student will create an online account at the beginning of the year but in order for it to stay active the student must visit the website or the account will go dormant.

## Junior Writing Goals:

## US History and Civics will focus on two different forms of writing skills for the junior year. Students will continue to develop their persuasive writing skills by completing document based writing assignments but they will also focus on analytical essays, which are required by the new SAT format. All junior students will be taking the new SAT in March and in preparation for that exam the class will be completing assignments that are in line with the skills that the new SAT requires. In order to track student writing progress all students will create a writing folder at the beginning of the year. This folder will remain in the classroom and will be used by students to gauge their progress and identify areas of strength and weakness concerning their writing skills.

Marking Period One – 20%

Marking Period Two – 20%

Mid Term Exam – 10%

Marking Period Three – 20%

Marking Period Four – 20%

Final Exam – 10%

**Grading Policy –** Students will be graded on the following criteria:

Tests/Projects/ Essays: 45%

Quizzes/ Short Writing Activities: 35%

Classwork/ Homework/ Participation: 20%

**Attendance –** (Refer to the *Student Handbook* for the full attendance policy) Please be on time and prepared for class. Tardiness will not be accepted and it is important not to miss class.

**Cheating and Honor Code –** (Refer to the *Student Handbook* for full policy) Plagiarism is unacceptable and any violation of the honor code will be persecuted. Plagiarism is both the intentional and the unintentional use of another’s ideas, words, phrases, metaphors, and structures without giving proper credit. This makes plagiarism a question of fact not intent. To avoid plagiarism make sure that you take careful notes during the writing/ research process and develop a habit of identifying (or citing) the authors/ sources that you are indebted to.

## US History and Civics

# HOMEWORK AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

Welcome to US History! Below you will find a list of classroom expectations and policies for this course. Please keep in mind that no list can cover every situation.

**Rules of the Classroom –**

1. Treat others in the class as you would like to be treated and respect their ideas by listening and paying attention.
2. Be prepared for class by bringing a writing utensil, your textbook, notebook, and any due homework or other assignments. Do NOT bring cellular devices, or electronics (these will be confiscated)
3. Be on time to class and have a pass if you are going to be late. If you are consistently late to class without a pass you may be given a lunch detention. 3 lunch detentions for tardiness will become an afterschool detention.
4. Food or drink will be allowed until it makes a mess, becomes a distraction or is left in class.
5. Homework due dates are provided weekly. If you have missed class your homework must be turned in the next time you are in class. Major assignments that are late late you will lose points off the final grade.
6. If you are absent, get any assignments/notes from another student or talk with me directly. All homework assignments will be posted on my website as well.
7. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated.
8. Feel free to stop by during free time or after school to ask any questions about the class that you might have. I will have designated days at lunch activity as well.
9. **Behavioral Agreement:**

a). Students will be verbally warned for minor transgressions of any classroom guidelines

b). If student’s behavior does not change he or she will be assigned a ½ lunch detention

* 1. If you are assigned a ½ lunch detention you must report to my room the next lunch period
	2. If you fail to come to the ½ lunch detention you will be given a full lunch detention for the next lunch period
	3. If you fail to come to the full lunch detention you will be referred to the office, you will be assigned an after school detention and your parents will be contacted.

c). Any serious behavioral infractions will receive an after school detention, referral to the office and your parents will be contacted.

1. If you have problems meeting class expectations please see me to discuss

If you have any questions please feel free to either call at (860) 345-8541 x205 or email me tritter@rsd17.org (email is preferable)

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**Student Accountability/Syllabus Form**

In order to create a database of contact information and for me to ensure that both you and your child has read and understood the class guidelines**, I am asking for each parent to email me or complete the form at the bottom of this page with a small amount of information**. I would appreciate it you could please email me the following information at tritter@rsd17.org or return this form by September 9th. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year please feel free to email me.

*I have read and understood these class policies and expectation. I agree to work to the standard that has been set.*

**Student’s Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian(s)**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Home Phone\***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Work and/or Cell Phone**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Email Address\***: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*(Please select which is your preferred method of communication)

**Any concerns or additional information**