



American History 9
Course #199-200
Mr. O'Brien
Room #114

From the Minnesota State Academic Standards:

What is History?

The study of History helps students to see how people in other times and places have grappled with the fundamental questions of truth, justice, and personal responsibility, to understand that ideas have real consequences, and to realize that events are shaped both by ideas and the actions of individuals.

The study of U.S. History helps students understand the democratic traditions of the United States and how these traditions were established and how they continue in the present. U.S. History also helps students understand that the United States is a nation built on ordinary and extraordinary individuals united in an on-going quest for liberty, freedom, justice, and opportunity. It helps students understand how much courage and sacrifice it has taken to win and keep liberty and justice.

Why Study History?

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What We Will Accomplish

The ultimate goal is to learn. Good grades are nice, but learning and personal growth are more important. Grades should not be shared with other students- not because Mr. O'Brien is hiding something. Every student's goal should be to gain knowledge.

History is everywhere. The pursuit of knowledge of history is essential in this course. Students will be expected to read books with a historical emphasis during the semester and must be prepared to report. Current Events are history in the making. Every student will complete two article reviews each quarter. These will be completed on your own time. These are your major homework assignments. Most other course work will be completed (or at least started) in class.

Expectations

Come prepared, work hard, be respectful, be responsible. Any questions? This seems straight forward, but unfortunately it is often forgotten along the way. Here are the expectations expanded slightly:

- Bring a writing utensil and current course work every day. As you have been in school for ten years, this is not asking too much. Failing to prepare is preparing to fail. In short, there are no excuses for coming unprepared.
- Work time is just as it says- *WORK TIME!* Work habits should be the easy part of the course. Failure to use time well will result in lower grades than your answers reflect.
- Respect- if unsure, follow the golden rule.
- Responsibility means you are accountable for actions- good and bad. Take credit when credit is due and don't blame others for your mistakes. Instead, consider your mistakes another learning opportunity.

Rules

- All school policies and procedures will be followed.
- No food, pop, energy drinks, etc. in the classroom. Water is fine.
- Absolutely no cell phones, no exceptions.
- Passes are required in the hallways at all times.

Grading

A	94	C	74
A-	90	C-	70
B+	87	D+	67
B	84	D	64
B-	80	D-	60
C+	78	NC	Unacceptable

- 80% of grade- Concepts, Application, and Analysis
 - This includes the ability to identify and differentiate concepts, the ability to make personal connections between course concepts and everyday life, the ability to use critical thinking to further understanding and comprehension of course content.
- 20% of grade- Work Habits
 - This includes homework being turned in on assigned date, respectful and active class participation.
 - I will accept late assignments, but it will affect your grade!
 - In the past year I have had a number of students finish below their expectations because of late assignments. If you miss class it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.
- Students are responsible for checking on makeup work. Daily reports are posted so all students can see what we have been working on. It is located on the bulletin board near the door.
- Thoughtful class participation is expected and can make the difference between an 'A' and an 'A-'.
 - If a student is struggling Targeted Services are available twice a week in the presentation lab before school.
- Cheating is unacceptable and will earn a zero. School policy will be enforced.

Don't forget, if there are any questions, don't be afraid to ask. I am usually available before or after school. My schedule is posted on my webpage:

<http://www.isd547.com/HS/Teachers/dobrien/dobrien.html>

THE TENTATIVE GAME PLAN

Week	Area of Study
1	The Civil War
2	The Civil War
3	The Civil War
4	The Civil War
5	Reconstruction
6	Reconstruction
7	American Industry
8	American Industry
9	Looking to the West
10	Looking to the West
11	Politics, Immigration, and Urban Life
12	Politics, Immigration, and Urban Life
13	Life at the Turn of the 20 th Century
14	Life at the Turn of the 20 th Century
15	Civics
16	Civics
17	Civics
18	The Year in Review, Research Project Due