

*American History II Honors (Reconstruction to the present)*  
*Virginia K. Plummer (O'Tuel)*  
*2017-2018*

*The American History II course represents the second half of our nation's history, and covers events from the late nineteenth-century to the present. At the start of this course you will be studying America immediately following the Civil War during the period known as Reconstruction. We will go on to cover many other significant events like the Gilded Age, Progressive Era, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War and subsequent others bringing us all the way to the present era. In addition to learning about specific trends and events, we will learn/practice utilizing the critical thinking skills necessary for engaging in historical research. My goal as your teacher is to facilitate a thorough understanding of our nation's history and mastery of the skills needed for lifelong learning...and hopefully help you develop a love and enthusiasm for history along the way ☺!*

*Classroom Rules/Procedures*

- 1. Be in your seat when the bell rings.*
- 2. Bring all materials to class each day (text, writing utensil, notebook)*
- 3. Show respect to everyone at all times.*
- 4. You may eat and drink in class **responsibly**. This includes always throwing away your trash and using good, common sense.*
- 5. Complete all assignments and follow directions in a timely manner.*

*Absence Policy/Make-up Work* - *Great attendance is very important. Please remember excused absences are still absences. If an absence is excused, you can make up any work missed but with an unexcused absence you cannot...even a test or quiz. With an excused absence you are allowed five days to make up missed work. Most assignments will be posted on Edmodo so you will have immediate access at home if you are unable to come to school. We will commonly use an online textbook at the website [www.ushistory.org](http://www.ushistory.org) which can be used to complete assignments at home.*

*\*If a student is present to hear a test date announced but not present on the test day, they must be prepared to take the test immediately upon returning. Only multiple, consecutive days missed prior to the test date in which test material is being taught (not simply reviewed) will allow a student additional days to prepare before taking a missed test.*

***There will be three grade categories- tests, classwork/homework, and quizzes***

*Tests (40%)* - *Tests will be primarily from material covered in the textbook and will take place after completion of a chapter or chapters (sometimes chapters are combined). Test dates will be announced more than a week in advance. Larger, more intensive project grades will also typically count as test grades.*

*Classwork/Homework (30%)* - *The vast majority of grades in this class will be from this category. Every chapter or section of tested material will be accompanied by numerous activities designed*

to help you acquire and thoroughly understand the material on which you will be tested, and most of these activities will be considered classwork grades. Regular classwork grade activities include guided reading, guided note-taking, debates, and abbreviated writing assignments.

Quizzes (30%) - Occasionally there will be an assignment I will choose to count as a quiz grade (i.e. small-group presentations and smaller projects). Sometimes I will take up the Daily Review (class starter) and count it as a quiz grade. Other times I may give you a quiz based on a reading selection you were supposed to complete. There will likely be fewer of these grades during each reporting period so each will carry considerable weight.

Required Materials - You will need to bring a writing utensil and a three-ring notebook each day. We will have a class set of textbooks so you will not have to carry your textbook to and from class each day. For many of you, having a textbook at home will not be a necessity but one will be made available for students who want to keep a book at home for regular use. Others may sign out a textbook to take home at any time for temporary use. We will often use an online textbook as well ([www.ushistory.org](http://www.ushistory.org)).

Edmodo/Google Classroom - We will use Edmodo and Google Classroom as our primary means of posting assignments and making announcements. Everyone will sign in to an Edmodo page created for this class. Assignments will be posted daily and announcements made frequently to ensure student access to information and keep everyone aware of upcoming events.

Bulldog Bucks Incentive Program - I believe in the use of positive reinforcement in the classroom and the importance of rewarding good behavior, whether big or small. I will most often do this through the use of "Bulldog Bucks" which are small, laminated pieces of paper with a bulldog on them. Bulldog Bucks are a special currency used in my classroom and can be earned in many ways including making a perfect "100" on a test, participation, winning a review game, answering a difficult question, going the extra mile, etc. Once earned, Bulldog Bucks can be used to purchase prizes I keep in my room. The most challenging thing about bulldog bucks is finding a place to keep them so you won't lose them...any pouch with a zipper works well!

Contact Information – [virginiaplummer@ccs.k12.nc.us](mailto:virginiaplummer@ccs.k12.nc.us) (910) 484-1151 extension 623

Tutoring – Tuesday and Friday afternoons 3:45-4:30 and lunches by appointment

I look forward to a great year and to helping you learn things that will be meaningful and valuable in a way that is both challenging and fun!

Sincerely,

Virginia Plummer

