

# American History I

Jared Kaiser

Terry Sanford HS Phone (910) 484-1151

Email: [jaredkaiser@ccs.k12.nc.us](mailto:jaredkaiser@ccs.k12.nc.us)

Welcome to American History I! In this course, we begin with the European exploration of the new world through Reconstruction. According to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States from European exploration and colonial settlement to the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. Students will learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to the development of colonial America and the outbreak of the American Revolution as well as the consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. In this course, students will be guided through the study of the establishment of political parties, America's westward expansion, the growth of sectional conflict, how that sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction. In addition, American History I is a graduation requirement for all students in the state of North Carolina.

Cumberland County Schools has developed a local curriculum that breaks this course into 6 eras. They are as follows:

- Era 1: European Exploration to 1607
- Era 2: Colonization and Settlement, 1607-1763
- Era 3: The American Revolution, 1754-1783
- Era 4: The New Nation, 1776-1820
- Era 5: Expansion and Reform, 1801-1861
- Era 6: Civil War, Reconstruction, and the West, 1850-1877

## Grading System

Social Studies courses across Cumberland County Schools utilize the following categories for grade calculation:

Tests/Projects	40%
Classwork/Homework	30%
Quizzes	30%

This course does conclude with a North Carolina Final Exam. This exam is both created and mandated by the state. This exam counts as 20% of the overall grade at the end of the course. Organization is of high importance throughout the course for review of the final exam.

## Late Work Policy

Students are expected to complete and turn in every assignment and assessment throughout the course. Every assignment and assessment will have a **due date**. After the due date, students can turn in late work up to the end of the grading period but they will receive a penalty based on how many days late it is. 10 points will be taken off for each day an assignment is late. The lowest grade that will be given for a late assignment is a 30.

## Absences

Students are expected to attend all classes. However, if you miss a class, it will be your responsibility to obtain any and all missing assignments. This includes the collection of missed notes from class discussion. In the event that you know you will be absent, it is best to obtain your work prior to the absence. Students may also email requests, and when possible, assignments can be sent to students via email. Students who are absent on the day an assignment is assigned will have their **due date extended by three days**. In the event that you miss a quiz or a test, you should make arrangements to complete this assessment within one week of your return. Assessments are not helpful for monitoring progress if they are completed outside of the unit of study.

## Tutoring

Tutoring will be available to all students every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:30 to 8:00. Tutoring sessions will be used as a way to catch up on classwork, homework, and the curriculum. If a student needs individual tutoring or help outside of the regular tutoring sessions, please contact me directly through email or in person.

## Academic Honesty Statement

Academic honesty is of high priority at Terry Sanford High School. In accordance with school policies, students should take pride in their own academic work while giving credit to those scholars whom they learn from. Academic dishonesty including, but not

limited to, cheating (both copying and allowing others to copy), plagiarism, or violation of testing regulations, may result in a failing grade for the assignment in question. If the problem is ongoing, it will be reported to administration.

### **Required Materials**

- 3-ring binder reserved **ONLY** for American History I
- Dividers (6) used to separate the 6 eras of study—these can be bought or made from construction paper
- Loose paper and pens/pencils
- 3x5 Notecards
- Tissues (optional)
- Hand Sanitizer (optional)

### **Classroom Expectations**

Both parents and students who visit my classroom may notice that there is a posted list of rules. I firmly believe that students at this level should be treated as young adults. However, there are many expectations in my class. They are as follows:

1. Be respectful of everyone in the school environment.
2. Be open-minded and accepting of views other than your own.
3. Contribute to the learning environment by being present and participating in class discussions.
4. Come to class prepared and ready to learn.

### **Electronic Use Policy**

One of the most difficult challenges in the modern classroom is technology. While technology can be an excellent tool for communication and learning, when misused, it can be one of the worst distractions for our students. Because of this, the school has developed the following electronic use policy:

1. Students should not use electronic devices without the permission and/or supervision of the classroom teacher.
2. Parents are asked to refrain from contacting students via cell phone during class time. This is both an academic and safety concern. All contact to students during class time should filter through our main office.

Over the summer, students should have received a copy of the school's new Electronic Device Policy. This policy outlines the guidelines, restrictions, and penalties in regards to personal electronic devices in the school. Please reference the school policy for more information on personal electronic device use.

### **Contact Information**

Parents, please feel free to contact me with questions and/or concerns regarding your student. The best way to contact me is by email. If you prefer phone or a parent conference, please call the school. The best time to call (for immediate feedback) is around the end of the day, from 3:40-4:00. Outside of this time, messages may be left with school staff and I will return calls as soon as possible.

I look forward to an exciting semester with your student!

## **American History I**

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Please complete the attached form after discussing the syllabus information with your student. Students should retain the information portion of this syllabus in the front of their World History notebook. By signing this form, you are verifying that you have reviewed, discussed, and understand the information presented in the course syllabus. Should you have questions, please contact me for clarification.

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of emergency, if the parent signing this form cannot be contacted, whom should we contact?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below (and reverse side if needed) to provide any information you consider critical to the safety and/or education of your student. In particular, please provide any medical information including, but not limited to, allergy information.