

RANCHO PICO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

“Building a Culture of Excellence”

8TH GRADE UNITED STATES HISTORY

MR. SMITH

I. Introduction to the Course

This is a one-year course in United States History. The course is designed to study the ideas, issues and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. After reviewing the development of America’s democratic institutions, students trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy to relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

II. Textbook: The American Nation, Prentice Hall C.2000

III. Grading System

90 – 100% = A

80 – 89% = B

70 – 79% =C

60 – 69% =D

0 – 59% =F

1. Our team does not accept late work except for excused absences.
2. Make up work after an excused absence must be turned in within one week (5 days) of the student’s return to class. Any work turned in after this will not be accepted.
3. It is a student responsibility to obtain make up work. Students may review the homework notebook, check with the secretary of the homework, or ask me for missed work.
4. Grades will be posted in the classroom and updated on a regular basis. Progress reports will occasionally be sent home and may be requested by parents.

IV. Cheating Policy

Cheating will not be tolerated.

In this class, cheating is defined as copying answers/work from another student, giving answers to another student in this class or any other class (when it is not part of the assignment), talking during a test or quiz, or passing notes during a test or quiz. Included in this is the mere attempt to do any of the above mentioned. I am working under the assumption, and by the signing this syllabus, students and parents acknowledge that cheating is not allowed and will be punished.

V. Homework Policy

Because of our block-scheduling, homework will likely be assigned every day. Students are expected to write down assignments in their planners.

VI. Classroom Management Policy

To maintain a positive and effective learning environment, the following rules are to be followed in the classroom:

1. Treat all people and property with respect.
2. Be in class, seated and quiet when the bell rings.
3. Bring your supplies to class every day.
4. Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking or leaving your seat.
5. Use appropriate and respectful language at all times.
6. No food, drinks or gum allowed.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior are as follows:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Parent phone call and after-school detention.
3. Parent phone call and after-school detention.
4. Parent phone call, after-school detention and team conference.
5. Referral to assistant principal.

VII. Attendance Policy

Attendance is important and directly related to success. Students should be in their seats when the tardy bell rings, or they are tardy. The Rancho Pico Tardy Policy will be strictly enforced.

VIII. Teacher Contact

Parents needing to speak with me can email me at dsmith@hartdistrict.org or call 284-3260 ext 1215 .

IX. Material and Supplies Needed

For the entire school year, students will need the following:

1. 4, 70 sheet spiral notebooks
2. 150, 3x5 note cards
3. a black/blue pen and a pencil

STUDENT/PARENT VERIFICATION

Please sign and return this certification indicating that you have read and understand the information on course orientation.

Student Name (print)_____

Student Signature_____ Date _____

Parent Name (print)_____

Parent Signature_____ Date _____