

# U.S. History Syllabus

Mr. Sproull

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History class!

## Class Rules (The 3 P's):

- **Be Polite** – Putdowns are not tolerated. You will be voicing your opinions often in this class and it is important that everyone enjoys sharing their ideas.
- **Be Prepared** – Always bring your materials and textbook to class. You get one free chance to forget per quarter. After that you earn a detention.
- **Participate** – Class will often be interactive, and I will ask each of you to participate every day. Remember that your grade is based on your participation.

## Consequences:

- One warning
- Detention
- Referral and ISS in the office or with Mr. Taylor
- For positive behavior, students who are within 1% of a higher grade will be bumped up (ex: from an 89% to a 90%.) We will also play games in class when behavior is good and work is done.
- For positive behavior, students will earn coupons that will count toward gift certificates.

## ISS and Friday ISS:

- Students that are upset and need to cool down can ask to visit the counselor without penalty.
- Those that commit a serious offense or are repeatedly rude will receive a referral and be sent to ISS in the Junior High office to work.
- A student caught plagiarizing will receive a 0 on their assignment and can be suspended.
- A student cannot participate in a school activity or sports event on a day they are serving ISS, even if they are assigned a suspension that day.
- Students with bad behavior or more than 5 detentions a quarter will be sent to mandatory Friday ISS.

## Absences and Tardies:

- An unexcused tardy results in an automatic detention, so don't hang out in the halls. If you are not in your seat when the bell rings you are tardy.
- Students will make up their missing class work from an absence, whether they are excused or not. You have one day to make up assignments, tests and quizzes after you have returned to school for every day that you missed.
- All assignments can be found by going to the Arlee school homepage online, clicking on "Classrooms", clicking on "Social Studies – Mr. Sproull" and clicking on the "U.S. History" section on the left.

## Eligibility:

You must have at least a 2.0 GPA (C- average) and no F's at midterm or the end of the quarter to participate in sports and school activities. Students who have an F at midterm and at quarter will be subject to a parent/teacher/student/counselor meeting to make an improvement plan.



Ben Franklin jump starts his car.

### Materials You Will Need:

- Notebook paper
- Writing utensil
- Textbook
- A folder or organizer (suggested)

### What Will Determine Your Grade:

- SPONGE (daily morning questions)
- Class work and homework
- Tests
- Chapter projects

### Grading Scale:

- 90% - 100% = A
- 80% - 89% = B
- 70% - 79% = C
- 60% - 69% = D
- Anything below = F



"Mr. Osborne, may I be excused? My brain is full."

### Phones/Laser pointers/ipods/Hats/Gum/Food:

No cell phones unless I have stated otherwise. No laser pointers. If found they will be given to the principal and the student will be given a detention. Continued use of cell phones in class will result in suspension. MP3's and i pods are allowed when I have stated so, but are otherwise treated like cell phones. Hats must be removed when entering the class. Gum is allowed unless I find it around the room. Healthy food and drinks are allowed as long as they aren't messy.

### Late Work:

Unexcused late work will be accepted, but will lose 10% value for every day it is late. For instance, if you turn in an assignment two days late and earned a 92%, you will lose an additional 20% and earn an overall 72%.

### Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be offered occasionally, usually in the form of map projects. No student may raise their grade more than one letter using extra credit, so don't plan on being able to use extra credit to go from an F to a C.

### Free Assignment Pass:

When I witness a student working exceptionally hard or behaving especially well I may give that student a free assignment pass.

### SPONGE:

- Upon entering class each day SPONGE questions will be posted on the board. Quickly take your seat and begin writing because you will have a limited time and no second chances to see the questions. You will need to:
- Write out the entire question in your notebook.
- Find the answer in the appropriate textbook.
- Write the answer in your notebook using complete sentences.

Sponge questions will be collected and graded every Friday, so have all questions on the same sheet of paper.