

UNITED STATES HISTORY

GRADE 8

Mr. J. Pretari
Malow Jr. High School
Class First Day Handout

The purpose of this course is to increase students' knowledge of American historical events, which occurred prior to 1865. The course emphasizes the development of the U.S. through the study of people, places, events, ideas, and documents. It is designed to develop and encourage student understanding and appreciation of our American heritage and culture as it traces political, social, and economic development of our nation's history.

Supplies Needed:

Binder with 5 tab dividers
Spiral Notebook or Lined Paper
Two-Pocket Folder
Pencils / Pens

#1 Expectation:

As a student in this classroom ---

- . Upon entering the classroom, arrive to class on time, have all class-related materials available to start the hour, take a seat in your assigned seat, and be ready to get to work.
- . If you have to leave the room to retrieve your textbook, classwork/other, you will be marked Tardy for not being prepared for class.
- . You are not to roam around the classroom doing nothing once class has started and are expected to be at your seat until dismissed at the end of the class period.

Note: 5 Simple Classroom Rules and Classroom Discipline Policies / Procedures discussed separately.

Cell Phones / Other Electronic Devices:

Our classroom is defined as a No Cell Phone / No Electronic Device Usage Zone!!

Upon entering the classroom or by the start of the class period, students are expected to power to off their cell phone and place the phone in a designated # pocket holder until they collect it at the end of the hour. Sometimes cell phones may be used for a classroom activity, or only when directed by the teacher. All students are expected to comply with this teacher rule. Simply putting it away out of view or in their book bag is NOT an option. This easily prevents distractions and cell phone misuse (eg. texting, etc.) during the class period. If a student is found to have their cell phone on them, and it hasn't not been powered to off and turned in to the pocket holder, additional action by the teacher, and possibly Administration, will be taken. The classroom cell phone policy/electronic device will be strongly enforced. Playing of music will be at teacher discretion.

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UCS Board of Education policy states in regards to cell phones and electronic devices –
“The personal use of cell phones or other electronic communications devices (ECD) by students is prohibited at any time while in school or in a district vehicle. Students may carry ECDs during the school day, but they cannot be displayed or used without permission from a teacher or administrator for educational purposes. Personal use of the device shall be limited to the time before and after the school day and only when students are outside the building. ECDs shall not be used during instructional time, lunch, passing time between classes or on any school bus without permission of a school official.”

“The use of an ECD’s picture-taking or internet connection capability is not permitted without permission of a teacher or administrator. Utica Community Schools will not be responsible for the theft, loss or damage of any ECD. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against students who violate the policy regulating ECDs.”

Once again, if you are found using your phone or other electronic device (eg. texting, playing a game, watching a video, face time, picture taking, any kind of social media, etc.), you do not need an initial warning to have your phone taken away and expect appropriate consequences to be administered, up to discipline by school administration.

Class Participation / Attendance:

- Students are expected to actively participate in the class throughout the semester.
- Attend class on a daily basis. Attendance is the greatest predictor of success or failure for any class and also in the workplace. The school/district’s policy on attendance will be followed. If you are marked Tardy numerous times, you may receive an appropriate consequence.

Assignments:

- All classwork assigned will be expected to be turned in on the deadline date set by the teacher; in most cases, by the end of each class period. However, classwork not completed in class will be required to complete for homework.
- Late assignments are accepted. One day late will reduce an assignment 20%, two days late 30%, 3 days late 40%, and 4 or more days late 50%. Omissions or extensions of classwork are sometimes granted to students, but only at the sole discretion of the teacher.
- Students will have until the end of a unit or chapter to turn in any late assignments; after that a zero will be put in its place with a note in the gradebook.
- Generally, you have the same number of days you were absent to turn in the work, for an excused absence. It is your responsibility for making up missed classwork from an absence.
- Students are expected to follow directions on assignments given by the teacher (not just limited to format and name on paper). Failure to do so will result in a one point deduction from the overall total score on that assignment.
- If you happen to finish an assignment early, it is expected you will have something to occupy your time (eg. appropriate reading material, work from another class to complete, etc.). Putting your head down will NOT be an option.

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Cheating / Help:

- You must do your own work on all assignments. Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas/work or words, as your own.
- If anyone has been found to have cheated or helped another classmate cheat, both parties will find themselves receiving a zero on the work. A comment will be recorded in the gradebook and additional action may be taken.
- If you need help at any time, please ask! Don’t hesitate!

Semester / Final Exams:

- Semester Exams are administered at the end of each 20-week period.
- All students must take! No exams can be exempt or taken early, unless authorized by school administration.

Honor Roll / Grading:

- Any student that receives at least 90% on a unit/chapter test and possibly on unit/chapter course pack or designated quizzes, will be placed on a classroom Honor Roll. Those listed will receive an incentive for their accomplishment.

<p>Evaluation & Assessment: <not limited to></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Assignments Unit/Chapter Pre-Test Quick-Writes Class Discussions Chapter/Unit Tests (Post-Test) Individual / Group Activities and Projects Semester Exam Other 	<p>Class Activities: <not limited to ></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Speakers, if applicable Real Time / Virtual Field Trips (if applicable) Exploration of Current Events Class Projects Multimedia Presentations Other
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- Grades are based on a total point system.
- Grading will be standard using the traditional 100% grading scale.

94–100+ = A 88–89 = B+ 78–79 = C+ 68–69 = D+ 59 & Below = F
 90–93 = A- 84–87 = B 74–77 = C 64–67 = D
 80–83 = B- 70–73 = C- 60–63 = D-

- Work can sometimes be marked as ‘Incomplete’ and given a grade of 60% (D-). If the work is then completed and submitted, the final grade will be a 70% (C-).
- Any classwork ‘Missing’ will be indicated in the gradebook as such and a zero will be put into its place until the work is turned in.
- Students will have until the end of a unit or chapter to turn in any late assignments; after that, the ‘Missing’ indicator will be removed, a zero will be put in its place, and a comment will be recorded into the gradebook.

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Miscellaneous:

. Backpacks

Only drawstring backpacks are allowed in the classroom. The large (standard) ones are not allowed in the classroom. If you are asked to or have to go back to your locker to put your backpack away, it will count as a Tardy.

. Leaving the Classroom

Please fill out the Classroom Sign Out / Sign In Sheet. Only one male and one female will be allowed to leave the classroom at any one given time. Passes to the bathroom, office, etc. will be monitored.

Note: No passes will be allowed the first and last 10 minutes of the class period.

. Desk Area

You are responsible for how your work area looks. Clean up after yourself. If anything appears out of the ordinary, please alert me.

. Leaving the Classroom

At the end of the hour, stay at your assigned seat until dismissed. Do not line up at the door. It is not always the ending class period bell that will dismiss you. Once dismissed, walk briskly and in a controlled manner (Do not run) when exiting the classroom.

Unacceptable / Acceptable Use of District Technology:

- I am warned that I am not allowed to play, download, and/or save any computer games/programs off the Internet during class. This is considered ‘Unacceptable Use of Technology’. I understand, that if I choose to disobey this initial warning that I will be written up as part of the referral process, leading to additional and appropriate administrative disciplinary action as seen necessary. This also includes damage to a computer, etc.
- It is my further understanding that the Internet and other school-related technology is solely to be used as a tool for school-related work/research.

Looking forward to a great semester and school year!! 😊

MR. PRETARI

**** Please feel free to contact me with any questions/concerns that you have. Thank you!*

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