**US History
2022-2023 Class Syllabus**

**Mr. Reed
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**Course Overview:**

The objective of this class is to promote understanding and thought of the community in which we live in today. Throughout the school year, we will study and discuss the pieces of the past and modern American history as it relates to geographic, economic, political, religious, and cultural themes. To successfully accomplish this, we will spend time on the evaluation of primary and secondary sources, oral presentations, writing short responses, short essays, and as well as learning a large amount of historical content. This will be accomplished through hard work, dedication to your class work and having fun while working hard together. United States History works to develop an understanding of the evolution of our nation’s framework from various aspects over the course of its first settlers to present day.

**Student Expectations:**

1. **Behavior:** It is my belief that our Ruben S. Ayala High School students have the self-discipline and ability to behave in an appropriate manner in our classroom. Our class expectations follow the 3 R’s:

* **Respect**: Be respectful of all persons and property. This means you are expected to listen when the teacher or another student is talking. You are expected to be respectful of the ideas and opinions of others in the classroom and must take care of the property within the classroom. Hats, hoodies, or sunglasses are NOT allowed to be worn within the classroom as per school policy.
* **Responsibility:** Take responsibility for your actions and their consequences. This includes taking responsibility for your attendance. It is expected that you will be in class on time each day and ready to learn. If you are going to be absent for an activity, it is your responsibility to let myself know and to obtain the work you will be missing.
* **Rights:** Respect the rights of others as your rights will also be respected.

2. **Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices need to be turned off and placed out of sight during class. Electronics may be used in class for educational purposes ONLY as directed by the instructor.

**If disruptive behavior occurs, Ruben S. Ayala** **High School policy, as outlined in our school/student handbook, will be followed.**

**Classroom Procedures:**

1. **Entering/Exiting our classroom:** Students must enter the classroom respectfully, go directly to their seat, and take out required materials, unless instructed to do so differently.
2. **Distance learning:** Students must enter the virtual classroom respectfully and switch their microphones to the “MUTE” function at the start of class. Microphones must remain muted until directed by the instructor. In addition, the camera must always remain on and students fully engaged during instruction.
3. **Expectations during teacher direct instruction or discussion:** Students are always seated at their desks and fully engaged. When students have something to contribute to a discussion, or have questions, they must raise their hand. Students must respect each other’s time to speak during class discussions.
4. **Dismissal procedures:** The teacher dismisses the class, NOT the bell! Chairs and desks must be placed back to our normal seating arrangement, texts or materials cleaned and put away, and all trash placed in designated bins. In virtual sessions, students will exit the virtual classroom upon dismissal.
5. **What to expect of your instructor:** My goal is to help all students reach their maximum potential, while building both a challenging and fun learning environment. Our classroom is a safe place for our students to realize their abilities and challenge themselves and the material they are interacting with. We will explore many different learning techniques, many of which will allow students to work collaboratively with one another. Students may expect to be held to the standards outlined within our school/student handbook and all school policies. In addition, students may expect to be fully immersed in the learning experience which makes Ruben S. Ayala High School the world’s GREATest high school!

**Classroom Discipline Plan:**

1. **Explained:** Although never expected, if a student decides to break classroom expectations, the following actions will be taken:

**1st time:** Verbal warning, possible parent contact.

**2nd time:** Detention, parent contact, possible referral to administrator.

**3rd time:** Referral to administrator, parent conference, and next steps to be determined by administrator and teacher in accordance with school policies.

1. On our distance learning platform: Students will be expected to follow our “classroom expectations” as outlined in our behavior matrix and code of conduct. No inappropriate behavior will be tolerated during virtual learning sessions. Administrative intervention will be visited upon any violation of this expectation.

**Grading Policies:**

1. **Grading scale: Grades are based on point totals within weighted categories:**

**A = 90-100%**

**B = 80-89%**

**C = 70-79%**

**D = 60-69%**

**F = 0%-59%**

1. **Feedback/Evidence of Learning:** Students will receive prompt feedback on assignments, activities, and assessments in our time reviewing past work. In addition, students may seek additional feedback during office hours on distance learning, via e-mail, or on comments left on assignments by the instructor via Google Classroom. Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to meet learning objectives through their completion of various class and homework activities, class discussions, and the completion of assessments. Grades will be posted on Aeries.
2. **Grades will be based on the following assignments:**
* **Assessments**
* **Homework/Classwork**
* **Class Discussions**
* **Current Events**
* **Projects**

***(note that assignment breakdowns and categories may change at the*** ***discretion of the instructor).***

* 1. **Class Assignments, Activities, Homework, etc.:** You can expect homework in various forms, including the use of technology (Google Classroom). It is the responsibility of the student to know due dates of assignments and plan accordingly.
	2. **Assessments: Assessments (Tests) are not created to cause undue anxiety for students.** Rather, assessments allow students and the instructor to view the progress of the student and to make adjustments to ensure learning and understanding of the material is taking place. Assessments will come in various forms during distance learning.
	3. **Expectations for individual and collaborative work:** Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions, in pairs, or in groups when possible. They will ask inquisitive questions and make comments that positively contribute to our overall learning environment. All work turned in must be completed neatly, in correct format, and to the best of the student’s ability. I expect our students, and myself as the instructor, to embrace the challenge of building a positive learning environment for one another.
	4. **Late work: All your work is to be turned in by the specified due date.**
	5. **Make up work:** **Make-up work is the responsibility of the student and not the teacher.** Absent students are responsible for checking with the teacher (or on virtual learning accessing the Google Classroom to check assignment dates) and obtaining missed work. Missed work will be due the day after the student returns unless the absence is for multiple days.
	6. **Plagiarism / Cheating:** At Ruben S. Ayala High School, we have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy for plagiarism or cheating of any kind. Plagiarism, cheating on an assignment, or any academic dishonesty related activity will result in an automatic zero on the assignment for both the student cheating and any assisting student. School policy will be followed in the case of any dishonest academic activity.

**Materials:**

Supplies that are **strongly** recommended in this class include:

* Pencils / Pens
* Notebook paper
* Approved electronic device for distance learning

If at any time you do not understand an assignment, **PLEASE ASK QUESTIONS**. If your questions cannot be answered in class, please review the virtual office hours, or e-mail me at any time. I look forward to working with each of you to make this a fun and successful school year!