Instructor: Mrs. Triebes  
Room 204  
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**Course description:**
This two-semester course covers the evolution of American society: political, economic, social structure, racial and ethnic groups, world diplomacy of the United States, territorial expansion, industrialization, urbanization, international events and their impact on American history. The first semester will cover from English colonization through the Civil War. The second semester will cover 1865 to the present.

**Course Objectives:**
This course will emphasize United States history and the complex problems and solutions that have helped shape our nation. Students will develop analytical skills and create a factual knowledge base that will help them develop the critical thinking skills necessary to assess historical materials, weigh scholarly arguments, and place historical evidence in a relevant context. Persuasive writing and speaking skills will be taught and emphasized throughout the course. Throughout the course, historical material will be tied back into current day issues in order to provide a sense of relevance and perspective.

**Instructional Material:** The text for this course is AGS United States History as well as supplemental materials to meet students IEP related accommodations.

**Student Materials:** Students should come to class with the proper items everyday. Pencils, notebook or binder with loose-leaf paper, & colored pencils

**Instructional Methods:**
1. Lecture and note taking from power points  
2. Independent student reading from books, periodicals, newspapers, and primary sources  
3. Socratic method (discussion amongst students/debates)  
4. Cooperative method  
5. Films and news strips

**Student Evaluation:** The grading for the course will be weighted as follows:  
15% - Tests  
15% - Quizzes  
45% - Participation/class work & homework when assigned  
25% - Semester Final

1. Quizzes will be given on a regular basis over class readings.  
2. Critical Thinking Questions are used for most reading assignments.  
3. Tests will be given at the end of each unit. These tests will be in multiple choice & short essay format.  
4. Students will complete one essay for this class regarding government or a famous person from our readings.
Course Expectations:

Professionalism:
All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times within the classroom. Students are expected to follow all school and class rules as listed below. Students must come to class prepared to learn, with all work completed, organize and neat. Students must be respectful of others and their right to learn while in this class. This means students will be punctual and will actively participate in all class activities and discussion.

Academic Honesty and Responsibility:
Academic honesty is expected of all students. Dishonesty in any form (including copying from a friends paper) on any project or examination will not be tolerated. Student grades will be reduced by 30% for the first infraction with further infractions resulting in a zero on the exam or project.

Late Work:
Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time. Students who do not have the assignment ready for turn in will complete a “LATE WORK” sheet explaining their dilemma and indicating a date they are able to meet with the teacher to discuss the reason no work was completed. Assignments are left in the file box at the front door ALL MONTH LONG so there should be no excuse for not having the papers.

Make-Up Policy:
If a class is missed because of an excused absence, students may turn in assignments on the first day they return. If students have an excused absence on the day of an exam or quiz they will have the opportunity to take that exam or quiz at a later date. That date will be determined by the teacher and will depend on the length of the absence.

Attendance Expectations:
Students are expected to attend every class meeting. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of an absence and to bring appropriate readmit slips to class. Students are expected to be to class on time. The consequences for consistent tardiness will be per school policy, Saturday school or detention.

Cell Phone Policy:
Cell phones may never be used in class for any reason, including checking the time or date. If a cell phone is out during a class period the teacher will hold the phone until the end of the class period. If the student continues to have his/her cell phone out, parents will be notified and the student will be referred to the principal or discipline office.

Behavior expectations/consequences:
Students will be given two warnings about their behavior. Referrals for none compliance to school rules and classroom rules will be given upon the third offense for the day. Should a students behavior impede the learning of others the student will be given a referral and sent out of the room immediately as other students have a right to a distraction free learning environment.