

American History A

Ms. Maki

Room A209

651-635-1660 x1209

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<http://web.me.com/vamakiwills>

Course Description

This course is the first in a sequence of two classes covering the history of the United States. We will begin our study of U.S. History by identifying characteristics of major North American indigenous nations and the impact of the three worlds coming together (European, Native North Americans and Africans). We will proceed with units on the American Revolution and the creation of our country, the Antebellum period, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Westward Expansion, Industrialization and the Progressive Era, American Imperialism and World War One and conclude with the causes of the Great Depression.

Success in U.S. History A with Ms Maki:

Make it a goal to succeed in this class! This is a required class without which you will not be able to graduate. Some tips to succeeding are:

1. **Take notes in class.** Everything we do has relevance so write it down (especially if it is on the overhead or on the board).
2. **Complete all homework assignments.** Make sure you are reading the chapters and not just looking for answers in the text.
3. **Study for the tests!** Come see me for help if you often don't perform well on tests. I can help!
4. **Participate in class.** Class participation helps you understand material and makes the class more relevant and fun. It also shows me you are paying attention and doing the reading.

Website:

I am piloting a website during this trimester. It is my intent to post weekly schedules and printable documents such as homework assignments. I will do my best to keep the calendar updated with due dates and assessment dates. Please understand that this is a trial run so it might not run as smoothly as we all would like. <http://web.me.com/vamakiwills>

Grading

60% Assessments: No retakes allowed

40% Class Assignments

Grading Scale:

A	94-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	59% or
A-	90-93%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%		below
		B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%		

Late Work

- Any work turned in after your class period will be considered late.
- Late work is only worth half credit during the unit of study in which it was assigned.
- Late work will not be accepted beyond the assessment for the unit in which it was assigned.
- If late work becomes a pattern with you, I reserve the right to refuse acceptance.

Absences and Make-up Work

Absences are your responsibility. On the day you return you should:

1. Attach an **absence form** to any assignments due while you were absent and turn them in.
2. **Check with a classmate** for the missed day's activities and **get class notes**.
3. If handouts were provided, **check for them in the folders** marked American History.
4. Check the **homework calendar** for work assigned while you were gone.
5. If further explanation of the missed day's activities is needed, **please see me**.

Missing a quiz or test:

- You have **one week** from the day you return to make up a quiz or test.
- Sign up in class to come in before or after school.
- If you are having trouble getting in to make up the assessment, please see me **BEFORE** your week expires.

Electronic Devices:

Cell phones are not allowed and will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day. Parents, please help us control the use of cell phones in class! During quiet work time you may listen to music as long as no one around you can hear it.

“Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

Anne Frank

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Student and Parent Information Form

Student Information
Name:
Hour:
Any other information about you that I should know:

Parent Information
Parent/Guardian #1:
Day/Night Phone:
Email:
Parent/Guardian #2:
Day/Night Phone:
Email:
Do you check your email regularly? YES NO

Schoolcenter:

Grades will be updated 2-3 times per month.

Printed grade reports are provided to students and parents upon request only.

Contact:

If you have concerns regarding your child's performance or would simply like an update about what is going on in class, I encourage you to contact me via phone or email. **Email will ensure the quickest reply.**

I am available for additional student help before and after school. I am generally in my room by 7:15 a.m. and remain until at least 3:30 p.m. each day. Students should make prior arrangements to come in for help in the event I have other appointments scheduled, but they are always welcome if I am available!

Students are required to show parents/guardians the class syllabus they received on the first day and turn in this sheet with a parent or guardian signature. Please sign here after you have **read the class syllabus with policies and procedures** and filled in the **information** above.

Parent Signature

Thank you and please be in touch!

Ms. Vanessa Maki