



HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY

Dear Honors American History parent,

In an effort to better communicate with my students and their parents I am asking you to read and respond to the two letters attached. I will e-mail updates every two to three weeks to parents and students. If you do not wish to receive these updates respond on the form that will be returned to me by the student.

The video permission form is required by the district and is to inform you of the films I will possibly use this semester. The films all have review questions on line for you and the student to see the material the student is responsible to know after watching these films. There will be a class discussion on each of the films. If you would like to preview the films that would be fine and you can e-mail a change in permission if you wish. I have books the student can read if they wish to read instead of seeing it on the screen. Some student's op for that and it is fine with me. I will write a pass to the library and they do not have to be there or be noticed that they are doing another assignment. I have listed all the films I ever show time permitting in this class. The administration is aware of my showing these films and I have submitted educational support materials to tie them to the state and county standards. The series *Eyes on the Prize*, *Genocide*, and *Radio Bikini* are PBS documentaries. *Genocide* is narrated by Orson Wells and Elizabeth Taylor. *Hearts and Minds* won the academy award for best documentary. The *Triangle Factory Fire* and *I Will Fight No More Forever* films were made for television movies. *Forrest Gump* is PG13 and stars Tom Hanks. *Mississippi Burning* is with Gene Hackman, Frances McDormand, and Willem Defoe film. *Iron Jawed Angels* is a Hilary Swank movie. *All Quiet on the Western Front* was a version made in the 70s with Ernest Borgnine and Richard Thomas. *The Tuskegee Airmen* and *Saving Private Ryan* are WWII soldiers' stories. *Saving Private Ryan* won 5 Academy Awards. *The Gulf War* is a BBC Frontline documentary. I have used these films for more than ten years and they are of great value in teaching American History. I enjoy watching them with my students and I have seen most over fifty times. I feel this visual component adds to the power of learning. I hope this gives you some insight into how these films are utilized. Thank you for your interest and I hope this answers your questions about them.

Eyes on the Prize – The civil rights years 1950-1970

Radio Bikini – Nuclear testing in the Pacific in the 1950s

Hearts and Minds – Viet Nam conflict

Triangle Factory Fire – 1911 shirtwaist factory fire (Progressives, immigrants, factory conditions, city life)

I Will Fight No More Forever – Nez Perce flight to Canada (reservation system versus the independence of Pacific Northwest tribe- Chief Joseph)



Forrest Gump – Mentally challenged individual explores the politics and popular culture of the 60s, 70s, and 80s

Iron Jawed Angels – Alice Paul and women's fight for the vote

All Quiet on the Western Front – WWI looked at through the eyes of the famous novel by Erich Maria Remarque

Mississippi Burning – FBI investigation into the deaths of three civil rights workers

The Gulf War – BBC documentary on the 1st Gulf War – a Frontline production

Saving Private Ryan – Tom Hanks chronicle of WWII Europe

The Tuskegee Airmen – True story of the 332nd Fighter Squadron in WWII

I will also ask you to look at my website if you wish to know what we are doing this semester. The site is shshistory.com or you can Google it with my name. All assignments for the entire semester are located on the American History tab. A calendar for the entire semester is also under the calendar tab. Additional review materials, citation help, my biography, my contact information, video questions, supplemental reading assignments, important passwords, all unit instructions, and links to text books and citation machine. All dates not specifically described on the calendar are student work days to utilize the computers and text books in my class room. So if a student is absent or you are making plans to be out of town you will know what we are doing in class.

Each student should have picked up a textbook by now so they may have a textbook at home. This is their responsibility and cannot be done by me. They may also follow the link on my website and utilize an on line textbook from anywhere.

The classroom has thirty computers in it, which I wrote a grant to provide my students with computer access to Word 2007 and the Internet. There are rules they must follow to be able to use them but they do not have to use them every day if they do not wish to word process their work. The students may e-mail their assignments to me from home and I have a yahoo account for them to use even if they do not have an e-mail account.

The student needs no special materials for the class.

Due to laws regarding student privacy I cannot respond to e-mails about individual students. An e-mail contact letter will be sent home the first day of classes. Please fill out this form completely and we may communicate by e-mail at any time in the year. When using the telephone to confer with a parent/guardian, I am obligated to verify the caller, so please call from a phone whose number is listed with the school system.

I look forward to a great semester with your son/daughter. I hope this information is helpful. Please remember to sign the video permission form and fill out the e-mail information sheet. If you need to talk to me use the information on the website or the syllabus.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sandra B. Cribfield