**Advanced Placement U.S. History Course Description**  **Mrs. Merri Gardner**

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**Course Description:**

*“The genius of America lies in its capacity to forge a single nation from peoples of remarkably diverse racial, religious and ethnic origins…the American identity will never be fixed and final: it will always be in the making.”*  -**Arthur M. Schlesinger**

This will be an interesting and challenging Advanced Placement course in U.S History. The course is designed to enhance your academic skills and improve your ability to be a critical thinker as well as covering the major movements in American History in preparation for the AP exam in May. The skills that you will develop are essential to your success in college, in your everyday life, and in your ability to contribute to our democracy. The themes of this course will be the social, economic, political and cultural development of the United States of America, from Columbus to today. This is the story of *all* the people of the United States. There have been many great accomplishments as well as sorrowful chapters within America’s story. I look forward to exploring this story with you, so that we may enrich our own lives and the lives of others.

I want you to know that I am acutely aware that this year will have a unique set of challenges. I will teach you the historical thinking skills that will see you through this course and the AP test. Having said that, I want you to know this course is NOT about a test. I want you to leave this course as a citizen well equipped with the ability to apply history’s lessons to the present. At this moment in time, we are weathering an intense storm. Though I recognize we are all experiencing this pandemic in different ways, I will show you that we’ve weathered storms of similar intensity, and we’ve come through better. We can do this😊

## Expectations

* I expect you to be an **active learner** in this class.
* Bring your **laptop**, notes, homework, and binder to class each day. Though we’ll use OneNote and Schoology. So, stay organized throughout the year. Don’t worry; we’ll help you learn OneNote if you are not already familiar or need a refresher😊
* You should **complete all assignments** as well as **be prepared to participate** in

class discussions, debates, document analysis, simulations, and games.

* Show **respect and kindness** to and courtesy towards your classmates, the teacher, any substitute teacher and what we are studying. Always raise your hand in class.
* **Do NOT use cellphones, EVER!!!!** Put them in your bag and leave them there until you walk out or until class is over.
* **Apply yourself** to the best of your ability and always present ***your*** own work. Be proud of what you put your name on😊

**Supplies:** You’ll need your laptop and textbook. Other supplies are recommended such as colored pencils, a notebook, and other tools you’ve found throughout your academic career that you find valuable.

# **Text and Supplementary Readings**

The text we will be using is *The American Pageant*. We will also be reading numerous supplemental documents. In addition to the American Pageant, we will be reading selections from other textbooks. While notes on our textbook and supplemental readings will rarely be graded, we believe annotations and notes are helpful to ownership of concepts. The textbook may remain at home.

**Homework**

Most of your homework will be reading: on average you should expect to spend approximately 1-1/2 hours each evening on homework. Though notes will rarely be graded, annotations/notes are encouraged. You will be quizzed to measure your completion of reading assignments. Homework may be checked or quizzed the day it is due *or in the following days*, so always come to class prepared. Reading quizzes are designed to assess how well you understand the material. All quizzes must be taken unless there are extenuating circumstances. In some cases, the teacher may provide you with notes. These readings and notes will be assessed as closed notes quizzes. All closed notes quizzes will be announced. I encourage you to annotate/highlight the numerous reading packets we’ll have throughout the year.

**Grades**

1. Your grades will be based upon a point scale. It will be calculated as follows:

**Your Total Points / Total Possible Points**

1. Grades will consist of homework (5-10 pts), quizzes (5-20 pts), projects (20-50 pts), and tests (25 pts). Tests will be multiple choice, essay and/or short answer on a rotating basis
2. **Lateness:**
   1. Homework is checked on the day it is due. Late homework will receive up to a 50% reduction in grade. You are responsible for turning it in.
   2. If you are unable to complete an assignment due to an extreme circumstance, please let me know via email. You must make up the assignment by the following day. Please don’t be afraid to let me know if you are having trouble☺ Ask me about my cat story!
   3. Long Term assignments such as essays, projects, and research will be collected in class on the day assigned. Late assignments will receive a 10-25% per day reduction in grade.

**Absences:** If you are absent, you are responsible for the work that you missed. Please see me before school starts to find out about materials, activities, and/or assessments from the previous day AFTER CHECKING SCHOOLOGY. You will need to plan any make-up assessments. Absent students have two days per sick day to complete an assignment that was given when absent. The assignment will be marked with a 50% until it is completed. If you are absent for a substantial amount of time, exceptions will apply. Students who miss a test will take a make-up exam that may be multiple choice, essay, short answer or fill in the blank. To sum up our absence policy: CHECK SCHOOLOGY FIRST.

If you are absent during for a test, I cannot rush to get a make-up test graded. Be present on test days. I will be keeping track of those who are repeatedly absent on test days.

**Open Door Policy:** If you have a problem with the course work, please feel free to discuss these matters with me before school begins. If you need any help, I am available before and after school in room 228 or you may contact me via email. Email is the best way to reach me (gardnerm@[tesd.net](mailto:cruzm@tesd.net) ).

**Participation - Participation lets me know if you understand the material as well, of not more, than a test!**

Class Participation is assessed based on the following criteria:

* + - * 1. Contributes meaningful comments and questions during class discussions
        2. Answers questions and actively participates in class routines and group work
        3. Demonstrates leadership, cooperation, respect and a positive attitude

**Cheating defined…**

*Cheating is any action taken by a student that undermines a purpose of an assessment instrument. Cheating can take many forms.* Examples of cheating include*:*

1. Submitting someone else’s work as your own without permission from the teacher.

2. Using/Copying/Sharing someone else’s work.

3. Using/Copying/Sharing someone else’s notes in any form.

4. Using unauthorized aids/devices (cell phone, watches, graphing calculators) during a test/ quiz, including the answers of others.

5. Asking about the specific nature of a test before taking it. Sharing information about the specific nature of a test with a student who has yet to take it.

6. Using direct quotes or paraphrase without proper citation.

7. Collaboration on a take-home assignment without the permission from the teacher.

8. Taking tests, graded work, or speaking to assessment information out of the classroom without permission from the teacher.

10. I will immediately remand any student to discipline.

***Social Justice & Equity Statement of Commitment***

The Conestoga Social Studies & English departments are committed to the district initiative of social justice and equity.  We acknowledge the systemic and structural biases and prejudices that are rooted in American society. We care deeply about the way racism, intolerance, and injustice affect the lives of all members of our classroom and community. We commit to creating a curriculum that embraces the inclusion of marginalized voices and diverse viewpoints and hope to inspire and empower students to be empathetic global citizens.

I understand the policies in Mrs. Gardner’s class and agree to follow its regulations.

**Student Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am SOOOOOO excited to be your teacher, we’re gonna’ have a great year☺