

# *U.S. History*

## *Mr. Booth*

**Course Overview:** This course will look at many different topics dealing with the history of the United States after the Civil War. Some of the main topics that will be covered include Westward Expansion, Reconstruction of the South, the Second Industrial Revolution, American Urbanization & the Gilded Age, Imperialism, Progressive Era, World War I, the Roaring '20s, the Great Depression & the New Deal, World War II, Cold War, Post World War II America, Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War Era, presidencies from Nixon to Reagan, & recent U.S. history. This class will use many different methods to learn about these & other topics including notes, assignments, weekly essays, quizzes, tests, special projects, etc.

**Contacting Mr. Booth:** Mr. Booth can be reached via e-mail at [booth27@gmail.com](mailto:booth27@gmail.com). Mr. Booth gets to school before 8:00 a.m. daily if you need additional help, & has 5th Period planning period this year. If requested, Mr. Booth may be able to stay after school on Wednesdays. Questions about homework assignments, due dates for projects, handouts from the most recent unit, dates of tests, & many other questions can be answered by visiting Mr. Booth's website is at [www.teacherweb.com/TN/OliverSpringsHighSchool/MikaBooth](http://www.teacherweb.com/TN/OliverSpringsHighSchool/MikaBooth) that has weekly assignments listed, announcements of test dates, due dates for projects, handouts from the most recent unit, & other helpful materials.

**Class Expectations:** Students are expected to be respectful & courteous to everyone in class at all times. Students may not have any unauthorized substances in class & must always abide by all school board policies (including dress code). Student cell phones & musical devices are not allowed in the classroom & will be taken up by the teacher if seen or heard in class.

Students should come to class prepared & for that reason, are required to bring paper, pencil, pen, a 3-ring binder with all class notes, worksheets, & handouts, & their textbook. Students are not to talk or be disruptive in anyway during instructional time & must sit in their assigned seats for the entire class period. Students may have *plain bottled water*, but otherwise are not allowed to have any food or drinks in class. Any pressing of the limits of bringing in food or drinks (with the exception of students with a documented medical condition) will result in the suspension of the bottled water exception.

Also, students are expected to get to class on time. Excessive tardiness will result in detention time. Also, students tardy to class will be given a grade of *ZERO* on any beginning of class quizzes. Finally, it should be mentioned that 3 tardies count as an unexcused absence, which can influence possible semester exam exemptions.

**Grading:** In U.S. History, 40% of the final grade is based on the overall 1<sup>st</sup> Semester average, 40% of the final grade is based on the overall 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester average, & the remaining 20% of the final grade is based on a state end-of-course exam. In the semester averages, each of the Nine Weeks averages is worth 40% of the Semester average with the remaining 20% coming from a Semester Exam. Nine Weeks grades are calculated by taking the total number of points earned divided by the total number of points possible in the respective grading period. The Semester Exam (a 100-question test) grade is calculated by taking the total number of questions answered correctly divided by the total number of points possible.

Each assignment during a Nine Weeks is given has a point value. Note grades are worth at least 10 points; quiz grades are between 10 & 20 points possible; participation grades are worth at least 10 points; the unit grade is worth 50 points; weekly essays are worth 50 points; special projects are worth at least 50 points; & tests are worth 200 points. Assignments turned in late will automatically be deducted by 50%, no exceptions. Letter grades will be given as noted: A=92.5%↑; B=84.5%↑; C=74.5%↑; D=69.5%↑; F=69.4↓

Students absent from class must bring an excused absence slip from the front office before any missed assignments can be accepted for a grade (including test grades). These excused absence slips are given out by the front office prior to the beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> period & must be obtained within 3 school days of the missed class in order to make up any assignments.

Cheating of any kind is completely unacceptable & will be dealt with harshly. Any student caught cheating, plagiarizing, or performing any other type of academic dishonesty will be given a grade of *ZERO* on that assignment. In addition, any student caught cheating will have any accumulated extra credit points permanently deleted. Students may suffer from further disciplinary action.

**Weekly Essays:** Each week there will be a topic for a weekly essay, which should use information learned from the notes, the textbook, & should include some personal examples proving your understanding of the topic at hand. The weekly essay is to be a *handwritten* paper that is 1 ½ – 2 full pages in length written using complete sentences, & correct grammar & spelling. Weekly essays that fail to meet the length requirements, are poorly written (uninteresting, grammatical errors, & overall neatness), use inaccurate information, & not turned in on time will be deducted accordingly. The weekly essays are due at the end of each week (usually on a Friday).

**Unit Grade:** Prior to each unit test, students will be graded based on successful completion & possession of all assignments from the unit, which includes all notes, study guides, worksheets, & possession of all other handouts. Each unit grade is worth 50 points, & all students will need a 3-ring binder to store all unit materials.

**Quiz Grades:** There are generally 2 types of quiz grades: beginning of class quizzes & worksheet quizzes. Beginning of class quizzes are pretty self-explanatory, quizzes administered at the beginning of the class period that are generally worth 10 points possible. Students that are late to class without a valid excuse may not make up a beginning of class quiz. There is the potential for a beginning of class quiz each class period, so make sure to get to class on time to ensure that you do not get a ZERO on such quizzes.

While all assigned worksheets are a part of the unit grade in which it was assigned, some assigned worksheets will also be collected prior to the unit grade as a quiz grade. Worksheets graded as a quiz grade will be graded based on accuracy, not merely completion. Worksheet quizzes are generally worth 15 or 20 points possible. While not all worksheets will be graded as a quiz grade, since there is no way to know for sure if a worksheet will be graded as a quiz grade or not, you should take the time to do all worksheets assigned accurately just in case.

**78.0% Rule:** In U.S. History, it is expected of all classes that they should be able to achieve at least a 78.0% class average on each test throughout the year. Class averages below a 78.0% will be treated as an indicator that the class as a whole is not spending enough time studying & preparing for their examinations. For these classes unable to achieve at least a 78.0% class average, every effort will be made to ensure that students will get additional opportunities to study, review, & apply the course material. This will be achieved through enforcing a strict environment that will not allow for any disruptive activities or behaviors during the rare instances of free time. For instance, no student talking, whispering, note writing, or motioning; no computer usage; no standing up or walking around the class without reason; questions to the teacher must be course related to warrant a response; etc.

For classes with class averages below 78.0%, the strict environment will be enforced until either enough student tests are retaken to bring the class average to at least a 78.0% or the day that the next unit test is administered. For classes with class averages above 78.0%, there will be efforts to keep the overall volume level low for students hoping to use extra time for studying or school work, but the environment will allow for non-disruptive activities that do not violate school board policies. Regardless of class average, Mr. Booth will assign assignments he feels may help prepare students for the next test & may collect any of them for a quiz grade.

**Restroom Breaks:** While there is ample time before & after class to use the restroom, it is understandable that on a very rare occasion a student may be unable to wait. Therefore, each student has 2 restroom breaks that they may use in cases of absolute emergency throughout the entire semester. No student will be given a 3rd restroom break (with the exception of students with a documented medical condition). Additionally, restroom breaks will not renew at the end of the Nine Weeks. Misuse of these restroom breaks will result in disciplinary action.

**Test Make-ups & Retakes:** If a student misses the initial unit test date with an excused absence, then they are to make-up the missed exam either before school (most any day of the week with prior notification) or after school on Wednesdays. A test not made up will become a *ZERO*.

As a courtesy, Mr. Booth has a policy of allowing students to retake tests if they would like to try to better their test grade(s), but retakes of an exam must be administered *before* the next unit test is administered. Like make-up exams, retakes are to be taken either before school or after school on a Wednesday.

Mr. Booth allows all students to retake any unit test once. If for some reason a student performs worse on a retake test, the student will retain the previous higher grade earned on the test. However, please be aware that Mr. Booth reserves the rights to not administer retake examinations if a student is taking advantage of the privilege.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** Prior to taking each unit test, Mr. Booth will go around the rows to see what students have all of their notes for the current unit completely finished & intact. All students with completed notes will be awarded 15 points of extra credit. *This is an all-or-nothing extra credit opportunity & a student cannot turn in the notes late.* To get this bonus, all the notes must be securely in the student's 3-ring binder in the correct order with the student's name in ink on each page.

Also, at the end of each Nine Weeks grading period, all students that have turned in & completed all assignments with no *ZEROES* during that grading period will be granted 50 extra credit points. Again, this is an all-or-nothing extra credit opportunity.

Finally, students that do not use any of his/her 2 restroom breaks at the end of the semester may exchange their restroom breaks for 30 points worth of extra credit. Students that have used even 1 restroom break are not eligible for this extra credit opportunity. Like all the other extra credit opportunities, this is an all-or-nothing extra credit opportunity.

Please sign & date below stating that you have read & understand the rules & procedures in Mr. Booth's U.S. History class. Also, parents/guardians are asked to please leave a phone number or e-mail address where you would like to be reached by Mr. Booth if the student is having problems in class. After signing, please detach & turn in this page to Mr. Booth. Please retain the rest of this packet for future reference. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Booth at [booth27@gmail.com](mailto:booth27@gmail.com), or you may call the school at (865) 435-7216 between 1:20 & 2:15 (Mr. Booth's planning period).

Thanks,

Mr. Mika C. Booth

Student's Printed Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Parental Phone Number or E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_