

Mr. Rippey

Website – www.rippy-sphs.info

U.S. History II is a broad coverage of US History from the indigenous, pre-hispanic American societies to after the Civil War and Reconstruction, in the late 19th century. It will not attempt to cover every detail of US History in this period. It will address major themes, trends, and consequential periods and events in US History. It is good preparation for college style classes including occasional lecture format and independent work.

Texts: - *The Americans* by Danzer, et al.

- Essays and documents on my website will be used regularly.

Rules of the Classroom: 1) **No food or beverages allowed, or destruction of room/furniture**
2) **Be respectful of classmates and teacher**
3) **No radios, ipods, cell phones, hats, or other items not allowed in school (I WILL TAKE THEM)**
4) **No lateness**

- Detentions will be assigned after 2nd lateness (specified detention day) and for other consistent rule infractions.
- If I take an electronic device once, I will hold it for the day.
- **If I take an electronic device a second time, I hold it until the end of the week (or over the weekend) and call your parents.**

General/Academic Information:

- Course requirements include completing homework, class participation (from which you learn), in-class group activities, tests, a variety of essays on specific issues, a portfolio, a midterm exam and a final exam.
- Powerschool does the rest!
- On a test, scores from 90 - 100 are an A; 89-80 a B; 79-70 a C, etc. (I give +'s and -'s)
- 64% is passing. 63% is an F.
- **Any work or tests missed can be handed in or made up late within 1 week** of the test date or due date for the assignment. Written excuses for missed assignments is necessary to make up any work. A mandatory **loss of 10 points** (1 letter grade) will occur without a written excuse.

If you miss an assignment, YOU are responsible for letting me know,
and making it up within that week!

U.S. History I Portfolio Requirements

Portfolio Objective: Students will demonstrate and evaluate their own growth and understanding of U.S. History by preparing a portfolio of work completed.

Your portfolio is worth 200 points one time per year. It is due at or immediately following your midterm exams, and must have work from both the first and second cycles.

With that specification, your portfolio must include the following:

- 1) Table of Contents
- 2) A letter from you to me (the reader), describing why each item was included in the portfolio. Describe changes in your understanding, attitudes, and achievements, citing specific examples presented in your portfolio, memories of class activities, group activities, lectures, etc.
The letter could include:
 - a) comments about group work and sharing activities,
 - b) comments, general questions, and questions about historical concepts you have not fully understood that we have dealt with in class,
 - c) your thoughts on/about history in general,
 - d) your assessment of your ability to discuss and express your thoughts clearly,
 - e) reflections about your growth as a history student after being enrolled in the course,
 - f) your thoughts on this class in general.
- 3) Class notes for 2 days, explaining their importance and what you learned.
- 4) One **REWRITTEN (edited and improved)** essay (include the original).
- 5) Summary of 2 in-class activities (group or individual).
- 6) Two homeworks, with an explanation of why that particular assignment was chosen.
- 7) One test, with your comments on why you may have done well or badly, and how you could improve your performance.
- 8) The blank rubric attached to this syllabus.

PORTFOLIO RUBRIC

COMPLETENESS OF PORTFOLIO = 60 possible points

8 points	Table of Contents	
8 points	Letter	
8 points	Class Notes +Explanations	
8 points	Rewritten Essay	
8 points	Summaries of Classwork	
8 points	Homeworks	
8 points	Test	

Total Points (+ 4 for rubric)

QUALITY OF PORTFOLIO = 40 possible points

Quality	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Point Value	4 pts.	6 pts.	8 pts.	10 pts.
Self Assessment + Growth as Student				
Commitment + Time Spent Assembling				
Variety - Work Reflects More than One Unit				
Discussion of Completed Work, Notes, Tests, Historical Themes or Questions				

Total Points -

PORTFOLIO FINAL GRADE (total x 2) -

Parent Signature

I, _____, have read and understand the required work that my son or daughter must complete in order to succeed and excel in Mr. Rippey's US History I course, and understand the code of conduct that he or she will be expected to follow, and the type of work that will be expected.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

* Please note that all major assignments and regular reading assignments will be available with their approximate due dates at my website: www.rippey-sphs.info (on the main page and on the US History I page). I can be reached via email during the week at brippey@nps.k12.nj.us