*“If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday."*

*~Pearl Buck*

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**American History I: The Founding Principles**

**Ms. Rebecca Jones**

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**Room 2601**

**Office Hours: 5B Lunch & EE**

Welcome to American History i!

American History I is a survey course that will begin with the European exploration of the new world through Reconstruction.

Due to the nature of this course, this will be more than your typical history class. We will examine American art, music, documents, people, and ideas that made this country what it is. **This is a rigorous course.** We will be working together to sharpen your reading, writing, and thinking skills in order to prepare you for your next phase of life. We will study maps, charts, music, literature, film, media, documents, technology, and many other mediums. This means that you will **need to come to class prepared every day**.

I want to help you, but first you have to help yourselves…remember, I’ve done all of this before, so **everything I do is for your benefit, not mine!** If there is anything that I can help you with, from explaining something that you don’t understand from class, your grades, or just need some extra help…come see me! There will be a calendar in the front of the room that you can use to make appointments with me.

**Class Rules:** My expectations of you are very high, because I *know* that you can meet them. You are almost adults, and I want to treat you as such. For this to happen, there are a few guidelines you need to keep up with:

1. **Respect** yourself, your classmates, and me.
2. **Be on time** and **in your seat** when the bell rings
3. Use **respectful and school appropriate language** in class and discussion
4. **Remain quiet** when I and others are talking
5. **Come prepared** with all of your materials
6. ***NO ELECTRONICS*** *of any kind on or visible in class.*

**NO FOOD!!** You may **only** have bottled water in class.

Materials: For this class you will need:

1. **Three-ring binder kept organized**
2. Highlighters
3. Markers and/or colored pencils.

**twitter:** For updates on what is going on in class, including assignments, test reminders, and other important information, you can follow me on twitter! Look me up under: rjones9wcpss

**Website:** Any and all information you need can be found at my website at: <http://jonesushistory.weebly.com/>



Grading: According to Social Studies Department policy, grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

* Tests, Quizzes, & Projects: 85%
* Homework and Classwork: 15%

Inevitably, discrepancies will occur concerning grades. For this reason, you should **save all graded assignments you receive**. In the event that my recorded grade and your records differ, you will be able to prove your case; otherwise there will be nothing I can do.

**Homework:** You can expect homework to be assigned weekly. You will have two or three days to complete most assignments. Every Friday will have a quiz based on the homework assignments. You will be able to use your completed homework assignments on these quizzes.

**Make-up and Late Work:** Please be sure to check my website for all assignments that you miss when in class. All worksheet and PowerPoints will be uploaded there. There will also be a folder in the front of the class that will tell you what you missed.

The late work policy is as follows:

* If you are absent, you have the number of days you were absent to complete the work (i.e. 2 days out=2 days to get the work done).
* Late work will be accepted with a two day grace period. After two days, the work can receive a grade no higher than a 75%.
* A late work form must be turned in WITH ALL late or make-up assignments

Please make sure you stay on top of your work.

I am so excited to be working with you this semester. My goal is that you come out of this course with a better appreciation of who you are and how to find your place in the world. I truly believe that you all can be successful. If you need to contact me for any reason, please email me at rjones9@wcpss.net.

**Class Honor Code**

* I am responsible for my own success.
* I will ensure that I work my hardest to be the best student I can be.
* I will strive to the best of my ability to do all of my work on time.
* I will respect the rules of this classroom and accept the consequences if I break those rules.
* I have read and understand all of the policies of this classroom, and will uphold them.

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