Class Syllabus – *American History*

*Teacher Information*

Fr. Michael Heningham

Phone: 413-474-1415

Email: [frmichael@stsoc.org](mailto:frmichael@stsoc.org)

*Course Description*

This study will explore the social and spiritual forces that shaped the history of the United States. Instead of statistics and dates, it will take an apolitical path of how humanity managed to develop the most unique human experience in history combining cultures and mythologies from all around the globe as an expression of destiny and exceptionalism. We will be going where most histories have not gone before, to look behind the scenes and get as close as knowing the people of the times and what they experienced, and how they made decisions which impact, and to a degree, control our lives today. We will learn about the failures and the miracles, and how none of it was an accident. Through this study of American History, we will learn about the wisdom, fulfilments, and inspirations that were inherited from the most ancient times and continue to inspire the people of our nation. In most states, this class is required class for graduation.

*Required Text*

None. All materials will be supplied.

*Course Competencies/Objectives*

Discussions during class time are a major focus of this course. There will be a short quiz every other week comprised of true or false questions along with some possible multiple choice. These quizzes are meant to reinforce what has been learned along with creating an opportunity to review what parts of the course might not have been understood. All quizzes are open book with all materials within the notes of each class. Each term there will be a five-page paper submitted in lieu of a final exam. The paper will follow Turabian guidelines. Along with topics discussed in this class, the goal is for the students to develop their own interests in topics connected with U.S. history and have the tools and confidence to explore those topics with confidence and the skills to appreciate their impact on society.

*Grading/Evaluation*

Students will be assigned grades according to collegial GPA

A – Excellent, B – Above Average, C – Average, D – Below Average, F – Incomplete

*Attendance*

Attendance is a key part of being able to ask questions and offer observations and experiences. Perfect attendance is not mandatory, but lack of attendance could have an impact on the final grade. All classes are attempted to be recorded and videos that might not show up in the recordings have links posted on the class page. There are normally class notes that can be downloaded for each session.

*Course Expectations*

Have camera on during class

Take part in discussions

Take part in discussion board assignments

Take time to do well on each quiz.

Contact your teacher with all concerns, questions. We are here to help each other