

Course: US History (pre-Columbus to 1860)
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Class Blog: <http://e02291.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpmu/>

Course Objectives

1. To develop critical and creative thinking skills through the analysis of primary and secondary sources
2. To examine the relationship between the world's people both past and present
3. To analyze major trends and events in early American history and understand their relevance to our lives today
4. To develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. (International Baccalaureate)

Behavioral Expectations

1. **Respect:** All ideas, cultures, perspectives, and people will be treated with respect in this classroom. You may not agree with what someone thinks or believes in, but you will respect them.
2. **Attendance:** If students are absent, it is their responsibility to contact the teacher and get missing work.
3. **Preparation:** Students must be prepared to learn every day. Bring all necessary materials to class.
4. **Participation:** Students are expected to be on task during class. We do many group activities and I assess student learning through listening to student contribution during group work. It is important to participate in the group activities and class discussions.
5. **Follow All Seward Middle School Rules.**

Deadlines/Make-up work

1. All homework is due on the day after it is assigned unless otherwise specified.
2. If students miss school because of excused or unexcused absences it is their responsibility to find out what they missed. This information can be found on the class blog and by talking to Mrs. Liljemark.
3. All missing work for a unit is due by the end of the period on the **day before** the unit test. Students may receive full credit for all missing work turned in on or before that day.
4. Student work for units already past will not be accepted for a grade. Students may only turn in work for the unit that is currently being studied in the class.
5. Students who are absent on the day of the unit test, or who are gone for extended periods of time will follow the make-up work policy outlined in the Seward Middle School Handbook.

Grading

1. Grades will be earned on a percentage basis.
 - A = 90-100%
 - B = 80-89%
 - C = 70-79%
 - D = 60-69%
 - F = <59%
2. Grades will be determined by a point system. All assignments and tests are allotted points. The total number of points earned by the students out of the total number of points possible in the course determines a student's grade.

Other Class Policies

1. Students must ask before leaving the classroom to use the restroom.
2. Students may be excused from class to use the restroom, but should not abuse this privilege. Abuse may be seen as:
 - Being out of class for a long period of time (>5 minutes)
 - More than one break in a class period
 - More than two breaks in a week
3. Electronics (cell phones, iPhones, iPads, etc.) that are used or heard at unscheduled times will be confiscated and handed over to the principal.

Textbooks

1. The textbook is available online through the class blog.